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'Teheran planned Argentinian bombing'

HILLEL KUTTLER
and news agencies

IRAN plotted and oversaw the bombing last month of the Jewish community center in Argentina, a leading opponent of the regime charged in Washington yesterday.

The Buenos Aires explosion was planned in Teheran by the Revolutionary Guard, the Intelligence Ministry and the Foreign Ministry, and was approved by the regime's security council, Mohammed Mohtashemi, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance (NCR) of Iran told journalists at the National Press Club.

Mohtashemi, who condemned the bombing, refused to reveal the source of his information, other than to say it was obtained "from inside the regime."

The NCR has a military base in Iraq and a Paris office, and advocates an overthrow of the clerical Iranian government.

Argentina, meanwhile, fearing reprisals, has withdrawn its threat to cut ties with Iran over its suspected involvement in the bomb blast, a top government official said yesterday.

The government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters Buenos Aires feared another attack if it cut ties with Teheran as threatened by President Carlos Menem if Iranian diplomats were linked to the blast.

"When one goes into this kind of stuff, one has to ponder carefully what might happen next," the official said. "The possibility of a repeat attack is there. It's a problem that needs studying."

In another development, a judge probing the bombing has proof that Iranian Embassy employees are linked to the attack, Argentine news agencies reported.

Diaris y Noticias news service, citing an anonymous source close to the investigation, said Federal Judge Juan Jose Galeano has evidence that current and former Iranian diplomats were involved.

Two of the diplomats left Argentina shortly before the attack, Noticias Argentinas reported. None of the suspects was named in the reports.

Argentine Carlos Telleria, the buyer of the Renault minivan believed to have been used in the car-bombing, is the only person still detained by police.

Ariel Nitzkaner, the owner of the auto repair shop where police believe the minivan was rigged, said he was beaten during his weeklong detention by police trying to force him into a confession. He was freed Friday.

Nitzkaner, who said he is Jewish, said police put both him and his business partner, Marcelo Jooce, under intense psychological pressure.

Federal Police refused to comment on Nitzkaner's accusations.

About 200 people led by Ruben Beraia, president of the Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations, marched to the central court building in Buenos Aires on Monday to demand that the bombing case be solved quickly.

27 Falash Mura reported to have AIDS

Jerusalem Post Staff

TWENTY-SEVEN Falash Mura at the Neveh Carmel caravan site south of Haifa have AIDS, Channel 1's *Mabat* reported last night.

The Absorption Ministry expressed regret last night over the report, saying it was aimed at harming the image of the Ethiopian community. It also said there was no basis to reports claiming that most AIDS carriers are Falash Mura. According to a Health Ministry report, less than 0.7 percent of Ethiopians are AIDS carriers, the ministry said in a statement.

Meanwhile, AIDS educator Inon Schenkar announced yesterday that an international conference on AIDS prevention and education will be held in Israel in November 1995.

Schenkar, attending the 10th annual International Congress on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan, spoke on Israel Radio.

Newsline, Page 2



Jordanian Ambassador to the US Faiz Tarawnah briefs Bonds leaders yesterday at the Dead Sea Moriah Hotel as (from left) negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein, Bonds president Natan Sharoni, and campaign chairman Susan Weikers-Volchok look on.

Joint teams to demarcate Israel-Jordan border

HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

ISRAEL and Jordan agreed yesterday to dispatch joint survey teams to demarcate their border according to a 1928 League of Nations map.

The decision was announced by 50-member negotiating teams after talks at a resort hotel on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea.

The talks on delineating the border, sharing water, airspace rights, security and tourism resumed a day after the two sides inaugurated their first border crossing.

Close to 200 tourists yesterday passed through the new Arava border crossing north of Eilat during its first full day of operations, according to the Airports Authority, which administers Israel's land crossings.

The Arava terminal is open now from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is closed on Shabbat. A final decision on what hours and days the border is to be open is one of the issues being discussed by Israeli and Jordanian officials in the negotiations still taking place, the Airports Authority spokesperson said yesterday.

A number of Israelis with foreign passports were turned back at the border by the Jordanian authorities. Only those who do not have Israeli passports, whose foreign passports were issued abroad and whose passports are valid for six months may use the Arava crossing.

In other negotiations, Israeli and Jordanian officials discussed the location of the Jordanian air corridor over Israel airspace. According to Transport Minister Yisrael Kassar, the corridor is to be situated over the north of the

country and not over the Tel Aviv area, as the Jordanians had asked.

Kassar also said that it should only be a short time before Israel is granted permission to fly over Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, thus enabling El Al to considerably shorten its air route to the Far East. He said the US was interceding on behalf of Israel with the Saudis.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram suggested to his Jordanian counterpart Mahmoud Radwan that they develop joint tour packages to be sold by travel agents around the world. The two will meet in the near future to discuss the project.

It was not immediately clear how the decision to use the map by the League of Nations, the precursor of the United Nations, will affect Jordan's claim to more than 350 sq. km (140 sq. m.) of land now held by Israel.

Tel Aviv University Professor Asher Susser, an expert on Jordan, said that going back to the 1928 map — predating both states — was "the only way" to mark the frontier.

He noted that the northern borders of Palestine had been clearly delineated between Britain and a mandate to govern there, while the rival French controlled Syria and Lebanon.

But since the British held mandates both for Palestine and Transjordan to the east, "it wasn't of particular importance to the British to determine exactly where the dividing line was," Susser said.

The League of Nations map provides "not a

survey line but a description — the lowest point in Wadi Arava."

He said the teams would be the first to actually survey the "wadi," a dried ancient riverbed running from the Dead Sea south to the Red Sea.

Israel's spokesman at the talks, Yossi Gal, told a news conference that "the borders committee worked on the production of joint maps today, and agreement has been reached."

But neither he nor the Jordanian spokesman, Marwan Mousher, would make the draft maps available to the press or comment on how they would affect the Jordanian land claim. Both said this would constitute "negotiating with the press."

It was not clear when the surveying work would begin.

Mousher said the teams also agreed yesterday that both nations have "rights to an equitable allocation" of water from the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers, but didn't decide on the levels.

Asked about Syrian and Palestinian concerns over their share of water from both rivers, Mousher noted that the topic was being discussed as part of the wider US-backed peace process.

Chief negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein announced yesterday that he expects a second border crossing to be set up soon with Jordan.

"We hope to open the second border crossing in the north... after its exact location is worked out by agreement," he said.

Israel considering trade concessions, Page 2

Jericho mayor resigns after differences with PA coordinator

JON IMMANUEL

THE Israeli-appointed mayor of Jericho resigned yesterday because of differences with the police officer appointed to coordinate local affairs with him.

Mayor Jameel Khalaf's resignation was confirmed by sources close to Saeb Erekat, in charge of municipal affairs for the Palestinian Authority.

Friction between Khalaf, who had been in office 13 years, and Col. Moonther Ershed, appointed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, had been evident since the day Ershed began his job in May.

Last week, Ershed ordered a wealthy Jericho landowner to stop damming up water passing through a canal on his land so that other farmers could use it. The order was opposed by Khalaf and by PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidin.

Arafat removed Ershed from his post for exceeding his authority, provoking a strike by local merchants who supported Ershed. On Sunday Ershed was vindicated and reinstated.

Although this was the immediate background to Khalaf's resignation, it is known that Ershed was investigating the municipal accounts.

Reports put out by police sources hinted at padded payrolls under Khalaf's stewardship, including salaries for non-existent street cleaners.

In a statement to Israel Radio's Arabic service Khalaf complained of interference by Arafat appointees, saying, "I have asked President Arafat to excuse me from my position because I cannot work under such circumstances."

Khalaf's resignation now leaves Ershed in charge of the municipality.

Group interested in buying 'Davar'

Investors include Leon Charney, Harold Barry

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

A GROUP of investors from Israel and abroad has expressed interest in purchasing the Histadrut-owned daily newspaper, *Davar*, which labor federation chairman Haim Ramon is threatening to close down.

American attorney and businessman Leon Charney, is putting together the group, which includes Harold Barry of Detroit, represented here by Uzi Narkiss.

This group is interested in acting as a strategic investor, which will purchase the newspaper together with a group of *Davar* journalists, Charney said yesterday.

This group believes that *Davar*, Israel's oldest newspaper, and its journalists "have established a reputation of such quality and high standards that there is a very good chance of turning the newspaper into a profit-bearing venture," Charney said.

Charney is chairman of the Washington-based Charney Media Service, which provides news services to television stations throughout the US. Charney is also the executive producer and

host of an interview program on New York City's WNYC television station, which is part of the Public Broadcasting Service.

Harold Barry of Detroit is a successful investor in US media companies for the past 20 years, and once contended for the purchase of *Ma'ariv*.

The potential investors have been receiving documents about *Davar's* financial situation from Efraim Reiner, whom Ramon has appointed to examine the newspaper's operations and determine its fate accordingly. Reiner has served in the past as *Davar's* chairman of the board.

Economic experts who have examined these documents described them as "an assortment of papers that do not provide a complete and clear picture of *Davar's* situation and the possibility of operating it in the future."

According to the potential investors, Reiner himself admitted this, and added that even if the examination of *Davar's* situation

were to last three more months, it would be impossible to know what its financial situation really is.

Reiner told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that he has not yet reached any conclusions about *Davar's* situation, and when he does, he would present them to Ramon first. He said he would give top priority to *Davar's* continued operation and, of the prospective buyers, would give preference to the workers above any other investor.

He said that closing *Davar* would be the most extreme and least desirable option.

Reiner denied there was any intention to close the paper down this month, or that he had discussed such an intention with Charney at their meeting last Friday, as Charney had reported.

However, *Davar* sources confirmed that Reiner was spreading hints to this effect. They noted, however, that the rumors could be deliberate disinformation or an attempt to pressure the workers to give up their pension rights.

Rabin sets compensation levels for rezoned agricultural lands

JOSE ROSENFIELD

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin decided last night to set compensation levels for agricultural lands leased to farmers that are rezoned for residential or industrial use.

Rabin set the compensation for businesses and citrus growers at half the rate for farmers in the country's center.

Shohat had recommended that farmers be paid compensation at the rate of 25% of the land's sale value next year, and every year thereafter farmers would receive one percentage point less in compensation until it reaches 20% of the land's value, except in the development areas.

By contrast, Tsur supported the farmers' position for compensation of 40%.

Rabin's decision will require cabinet approval, which seems assured.

tax on agricultural land they convert to other commercial uses.

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Rabin, Arafat to meet at Erez crossing

DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Rabin is to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat today at the Erez checkpoint at 3 p.m. It will be their first meeting in the Gaza Strip.

Rabin is expected to listen to Arafat's complaints as well as stress the need for Palestinians to demonstrate accountability as a prerequisite for receiving greater international funding, officials say.

Arafat is expected to bring a long list of grievances, headed by a feeling he has been shunted aside by Rabin's new friendship with King Hussein. He is also to demand that Rabin make clear that Jordan's claims in Jerusalem do not have higher priority than Palestinians' claims.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday the meeting was initiated by Arafat and the two sides would discuss a "long list of things." Arafat is expected to raise issues ranging from the release of more Palestinian prisoners to the release of taxes raised by the civil administration.

Other issues mentioned by Arafat in a meeting last week include speeding up the pace of early empowerment, elections, Israeli payments to the PA, and easing border controls at the Rafiah and Allenby terminals.

He is also upset at several items relating to his personal status: his inability to travel freely to Jericho; a delay in the clearance of his helicopter; and the confiscation of 50 motorcycles donated by Spain.

But Jerusalem is the major issue, highlighted by the return from Amman of Faisal Husseini, the PA's man in Jerusalem, who said King Hussein should coordinate any planned visit to Jerusalem with the Palestinians. This appears to indicate Arafat has backed down from demanding he visit Jerusalem before Hussein.

Little immediate change is expected to follow this meeting, since the government maintains that Arafat bears most of the responsibility for delays in implementing and expanding self-rule.

Palestinian failure to establish an unpopular taxation system or other financing arrangements, which might dilute Arafat's absolute control, is delaying the implementation of "early empowerment" outside Gaza and Jericho, senior security sources say. This in turn delays elections to an administrative council and the redeployment of Israeli troops.

Nabil Shaath, the chief Palestinian negotiator in the Cairo "early empowerment" talks, said in Cairo yesterday that Rabin's comment Monday that the PLO has not raised the issue of elections was untrue. "We've been crying for elections," Reuter quoted him as saying.

Senior security sources said this week that Arafat does want elections so he can win a personal mandate from the people. "He sees elections as personal, not administrative, and said he did not care if he won only 50%-52%, the main thing was to win a mandate," one source said.

Elections have been put back from July and are currently being planned for December.

According to Foreign Ministry officials, Rabin is likely to insist that Arafat take concrete steps to demonstrate he is willing to empower the Palestinian Economic

Cooperation and Development Authority (PECDAR) with genuine controls, as well as commit himself to a target date for PECDAR's taking responsibility for funding.

If these early steps are taken, Israel would be willing to appeal to the 34 countries donating funds to the Palestinian Authority and urge them to provide at least interim funding to an international organization such as UNRWA on the PLO's behalf until the PECDAR structure is up and running, officials say. The international community has agreed to provide the Palestinians with \$600 million in assistance, once Arafat has set up a transparent and accountable financial mechanism.

Another funding issue that Rabin is expected to raise is the financing of the civil authority the Palestinians are eventually to have outside Gaza and Jericho. Israel is now negotiating with the PLO about the transfer of civilian authority in areas of education, taxation, tourism, and health (otherwise known as "early empowerment").

Coordinator of Activities in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothchild has said the estimated budget for these areas for a half year is around \$50 million.

So far, the Palestinians have not set up a tax authority to collect revenues, but even if they do, it will take a half year before such revenues are available. Therefore, Israeli officials say they would be willing to make a joint appeal with the Palestinians for "bridging" assistance from the international community during this period to finance early empowerment, assuming the Palestinian Authority becomes more accountable.

Rabin is also expected to seek to allay Palestinian fears about the breakthrough with Jordan. "We are not taking anything from the Palestinians and giving it to the Jordanians," Peres said.

Kaddoumi: Israel must be destroyed

FAROUK Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's political department, has called for the annihilation of Israel.

In a radio speech Monday upon the closing of the PLO's radio operations in North Africa, Kaddoumi, without mentioning Israel by name, said: "There is a state which was established through historical force and it must be destroyed. This is the Palestinian way. They seized our land. The refugees must return to their land." He added that the Palestinians would not "give up on one grain of sand of the Palestinian land." (Itim)

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'Israel, Syria must consider value of peace'

SYRIA and Israel must now consider whether peace with each other is worth the price of concessions it will entail, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday, en route back to the US after four days of talks in both countries.

"Each side is trying to determine if they can pay the price they are being asked for by the other and whether the price is worth it," he said.

Both countries now understand that the peace package has a variety of components and they are all "intertwined," Christopher said.

According to officials in Jerusalem, both Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Assad somewhat modified earlier proposals, and Christopher has now decided to allow each side time to consider the proposals of the other. As Foreign Minister Shimon Peres put it, time is needed to "digest."

The parties are likely to have ample time to think it over since Christopher is not expected to return to the region until the end of September or early October. One senior Israeli official said

DAVID MAKOVSKY
and agencies

there is an effort by both sides to synchronize phases of normalization of ties alongside stages of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. However, Rabin has said the differences between Israel and Syria remain "deep and wide."

According to one senior official, Christopher has spent considerable time trying to explain each side's perceived political constraints to the other.

For example, the Syrians would

like a quicker Golan withdrawal partially due to the fear that Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu may win the next Israeli election and could stop a Golan withdrawal in the middle.

According to some sources, Syria would like Israel to withdraw within half a year, while Rabin has insisted that it be phased in no less than five years.

Israel and Syria still believe "peace can be an outcome," a senior US official traveling with Christopher said, but "neither side is satisfied with what they're

hearing from the other."

Officials in Jerusalem sought to partially explain the lack of breakthrough on the Syrian track by saying that Damascus "does not wish to appear as if it is panicked by the rapid strides taken by Israel and Jordan."

A US official said his country found talks with Israel and Syria "far more detailed than before... we're also seeing much more of an attempt to see how the issues fit together."

"That said, it's going to be a time-consuming process."

J'lem police readying for Hussein visit

BILL HUTMAN

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal and Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz yesterday reviewed security arrangements in Jerusalem for the expected visit by King Hussein.

Hussein is due to arrive in Jerusalem as early as next week, according to Arab and government sources.

Yesterday Shahal and Hefetz met with Jerusalem police chief Aryeh Amit. Later, they toured the Old City to see first hand steps being taken there to beef up security.

Shahal said Hussein would visit Jerusalem soon, but added that no specific date had been set.

Police must prepare for the "era of peace, in which there will be an upswing in tourism, and more visits by world leaders to Jerusalem," Shahal added.

He said Hussein had an "open invitation to come to Jerusalem," and that he was sure that "one of these days he will come."

"We will welcome at anytime a visit by King Hussein," Shahal told reporters.

Shahal, under heavy police guard, spoke with Arab merchants as he walked through the Old City from Jaffa Gate to the Western Wall.

Shahal, meanwhile, declined to say when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would come to Jerusalem. He said the matter was in the prime minister's hands.

Shahal is slated to meet senior PLO official Nabil Shaath Friday. He said Jerusalem would not be on the agenda, but rather such matters as security arrangements at the Erez Checkpoint.



Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Aryeh Amit inspect security measures in the Old City yesterday in anticipation of King Hussein's eventual arrival. (Stein/Harari)

High Court to rehear case of eastern Jerusalem expropriation

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday tentatively overturned a government decision to expropriate a plot of land in eastern Jerusalem, but because of the importance of the issue, it decided to have the case reheard by an expanded panel of justices.

The case involved a plot of land in Sheikh Jarrah owned by the Nuseibeh family, which the government decided to expropriate in 1968 as part of a plan to develop the eastern half of the city. However, the state never took any action to complete the expropriation proceedings on this particular plot, even after it finally approved a building plan including the plot in 1989. This plan stated that a commercial center would be built on the plot.

In 1991, the family petitioned the High Court, arguing that a commercial center was not an appropriate public purpose and that in any case, the family could

build such a center itself. Furthermore, the family said, the length of time which has passed since the 1968 decision shows that the government doesn't really need the land.

Justices Dov Levine, Theodor Orr and Eliahu Mazza all rejected the claim that a commercial center wasn't a valid reason for expropriation, since any residential area needs such centers. However, the justices split on the question of whether this particular expropriation was justified.

Levine, writing the majority opinion, said the extremely long time which has passed—more than 25 years—coupled with the fact that the state still has no detailed plans for the plot in question, shows that this land isn't really needed. In such a case, there is no reason to impinge on the fundamental right of ownership—particularly when the owners are willing to implement the city's plans themselves, he said.

Orr, however, took the opposite view. Given the large scope of the original expropriation—4485 dunams—and the sensitivity of the area, which used to be the border between East and West Jerusalem before 1967, it is not surprising that the planning and implementation took a long time, he said.

Much of the work has been done—new neighborhoods established, new roads built—and it is logical that such things would have to precede the establishment of a commercial center. This is particularly true because the plot in question is an interior plot, which is useless until access to it has been built, he added.

Given the split views and the importance of the issue, the court therefore decided to have the case reheard by an expanded panel of justices.

IDF to consider barring private cellular phones on duty

ALON PINKAS

PICTURE a tank commander in the middle of an exercise in the Negev. Suddenly he hears a familiar ring. He reaches into his overall pocket and pulls out his cellular phone. It is his mother. She desperately wants to know if he will come home for the weekend, and if there is anything special he would like her to cook.

With consumerism sharply and flamboyantly rising, and with the involvement of parents in their children's military service further deepening, the next and perhaps the ultimate going-away present for your beloved son or daughter may very soon be an

inexpensive cellular phone.

The army has no regulations governing the use of privately owned cellular phones, simply because no one had ever expected such a problem to arise.

The IDF Spokesman said there will be a problem if and when cellular phones become widely used by soldiers, thus exposing them to possible field security violations. However, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned that the IDF Signal, Electronics, and Computer Corps is considering initiating orders that would prevent the use of private cellular phones by soldiers or officers, unless specifically authorized.

Three Jericho residents arrested in clash with IDF

THE owner of a banana plantation and two other Jericho residents were detained Monday night by the IDF after they tried to halt earthmoving equipment working on the Jericho bypass road.

The incident occurred as tractors were grading land east of the town. The three men tried to stop the work, claiming the tractor was operating on their land.

IDF officers arrived at the site but failed to persuade the men that the land was not theirs. A noisy dispute ensued and, when the three men refused to leave, they were arrested.

After their names were noted,

the three were handed over to the Palestinian Police, which questioned them before sending them home.

Although Jericho residents have complained about the IDF encroaching on their lands, the route of the bypass road was laid out in coordination with the Palestinian Authority.

Palestinian farmers intend to demonstrate today against what they call the "closure" of land around nearby Jiflik. The civil administration permits landowners to cultivate some 4,500 dunams (1,125 acres) around Jiflik, but not to build on them. (Itim)

Two killed in road accidents

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl was killed yesterday when she was run over by a car on a Bnei Brak pedestrian crosswalk. Police say the girl, Rivka Schwartzberg, was running across the crosswalk when she was struck and killed. The driver was held for questioning.

In another road death yesterday morning, Avraham Sharon, 22, of Moshav Messilat Zion near Beit Shmesh, was fatally injured when his car collided with the rear of a semi-trailer on a ramp of the Latrun interchange on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. Police say he was following it too closely.

In a third accident yesterday, a 10-year-old boy was seriously injured in Rishon LeZion when he was struck by a pickup truck. He was taken to Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. (Itim)

Israel may give Jordan trade concessions in areas

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL is considering giving trade concessions to Jordan on exports to the territories outside of the autonomous areas, an Israeli official close to the economic talks with Jordan reported yesterday.

Economic negotiations with Jordan resumed yesterday at the Moriah Hotel on the Dead Sea shore.

The official said the talks were going very well, and that the Jordanians had asked for "symbolic" Israeli concessions on trade with Palestinians outside the autonomous areas. According to the official, the Israeli delegation is seriously considering agreeing to the Jordanian request.

"In light of the positive atmosphere and of the fact that we are talking about a volume of trade that doesn't pose any threat to our economy, the delegation is inclined to accept the proposal," said the official.

Israeli officials have pointed out that the Paris economic agreement with the Palestinians has, to a great extent, left trade with the autonomous areas in the hands of the Palestinians.

Prior to yesterday's meeting, Israeli officials were saying that following the initial step of agreeing on a set of common principles, the negotiations would get bogged down on the details and that expectations for a quick breakthrough were premature.

They added that both sides agreed to undertake several feasibility studies for joint projects which also will take time until they are ready for implementation.

Talks with the Jordanians will continue today. The Israeli delegation to the talks include Treasury International Division Director Ehud Kaufman, Customs and Value Added Tax Director Aryeh Zeif, Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles and Industry and Trade Ministry Deputy Director of Foreign Trade Zohar Peri.

IAN MORDECAI

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SHALOM.
"G-d be with you"
MOTHER

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shipment to Jordan passes through Haifa

For the first time, the government yesterday approved a shipment to Jordan to pass through an Israeli port.

Customs and Value Added Tax Director Aryeh Zeif approved the transfer of 10 containers destined for the US Embassy in Amman by way of the port of Haifa. The containers will arrive at the end of the month from New York, and will be escorted by customs officials to the Damiya Bridge where they will go through Jordanian customs.

Moroccan official visits Arafat

A top Moroccan official visited the autonomous Gaza Strip yesterday for a meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. Jerusalem was a main topic on the agenda of Ahmed Ben Sodeh, an emissary from King Hassan II, who was the highest ranking Arab visitor to Gaza since it achieved self-rule. He met Arafat for 45 minutes in Gaza City and told reporters afterward he delivered a letter from Hassan regarding the Israel-Jordan peace process.

Givatayim bomber turns himself in

The 18-year-old man who was wounded Sunday when the bomb he was about to throw in a street in Givatayim exploded in his hand turned himself in to police last night. Another 18-year-old and his father, 50, who allegedly assisted and harbored the suspect during his escape, also surrendered to police. Detectives have been searching for the three since the incident.

Weizman declines to meet with Shaath

President Ezer Weizman yesterday turned down a request from PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath to meet with him regarding the release of Palestinian prisoners.

"The president does not discuss such matters with outside factors," presidential bureau chief Aryeh Shumer said. Shumer added that "the president is still studying the requests for clemency for 10 Palestinian women. There is no hurry. There are numerous requests [for pardons] before the president and he has not yet had time to look at all of them."

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 37, 33, 26, 12, 4, 38 and the additional number was 48.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, nine of hearts, King of diamonds and Jack of clubs.

To Pola, Rebecka, Poju and the Family

My sincere condolences on the passing of
your husband and father

SHLOMO ZABLUDOWICZ

An inspiration and a counselor

Orna Shulman
InterTech Corporation
Washington DC



The Joint Israel Appeal of Great Britain and Ireland

extends sincere condolences to
his wife Pola, son Poju, daughter Rebecka
and all the family on the passing of

SHLOMO ZABLUDOWICZ

We mourn with the family the passing of
our dear friend and member

SHLOMO ZABLUDOWICZ

Kehilat Beit Knesset
Caesarea

In great sorrow, we announce the death of our dearly beloved
sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother,

SHEINA (Yaffa) SHAPIRO

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, August 10, 1994,
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The Bereaved Family

We offer heartfelt sympathy to the family,
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Aloni: Cable TV must have more Hebrew

LIAT COLLINS

SAY it in Hebrew. That's the message Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni is giving the five cable television franchise holders.

Aloni said yesterday that the production of Hebrew-language programs on cable television would have to be almost doubled next year.

Under proposed regulations being formulated by the ministry to promote the Hebrew language and Israeli identity, the franchise holders will be obligated to produce 1,800 hours of original programs, instead of the 1,000 hours they were meant to produce this year. The cost of such productions is expected to cost them \$14 million, double the estimated cost of current Hebrew broadcasts on the cable stations.

The proposal asks the franchise holders to increase their local news coverage and produce more than 30 hours of dramas and some 20 hours of documentaries a year.

Representatives of the franchise holders are expected to meet with members of the Cable Television Council, the public body which supervises the stations, in the coming days to discuss the plan.

Would-be 'Bonnie and Clyde' caught after bank heist

BILL HUTMAN and RAINE MARCUS

JUST over an hour after being dubbed the "Bonnie and Clyde" of Jerusalem, a gun-wielding couple suspected of robbing a bank in the capital yesterday afternoon was chased down and arrested by police.

The man, 34, and woman, 23, allegedly stole some NIS 20,000 from a Bank Hapoalim branch in the Beit Hakerem neighborhood.

According to police, the two entered the bank with stockings hiding their faces, shouting "this is a holdup." The woman guarded the door, while the man went from clerk to clerk with a large bag and grabbed up money.

Both were armed with pistols, although no shots were fired during the robbery.

The two also took some NIS 1,000 in cash from one of several customers in the bank before running to their car parked nearby and driving off. Another customer and a pedestrian ran after them briefly and were able to give police details of the getaway car.

Jerusalem police set up roadblocks in the area and broadcast a description of the vehicle, a stolen rental car. A helicopter was also used in the search.

Officers began to jokingly refer to the two as "Bonnie and Clyde," the famous American bank-robbing couple of the 1930s.

The couple evaded police in the capital, but were spotted about an hour later as they drove up to a roadblock near Ramle. The two ignored calls by police



Police discuss yesterday's robbery of the Bank Hapoalim branch in Jerusalem's Beit Hakerem section.

(Isaac Harari)

to halt, and a high-speed chase ensued, which ended near the Ben-Shimon interchange of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway

when the couple's car ran off the road and overturned. Undaunted, they attempted to flee on foot, but were soon

caught. The couple was taken to Ramle police station for initial questioning, and then turned

over to Jerusalem police. Investigators said they were not cooperating. The NIS 21,000 stolen from

the bank was found in their car. The weapons, however, were not discovered, and police believe they ditched them as they attempted to escape.

Police said both have criminal records. It was unclear, however, if they had worked together in crime in the past. A senior police source said the man is also the prime suspect in the robbery on Monday of the Bank Mizrahi branch in Jerusalem's Bayit Vagan neighborhood.

In another robbery yesterday, police caught a 19-year-old man a few minutes after he allegedly held up a post office branch in the center of Tel Aviv.

The robber had threatened the postal clerk with a pistol and, fearing for her life, she handed over the branch's receipts. She pressed the alarm button only after the robber left the premises.

Detectives on Ben-Yehuda Street heard a report on the police radio that an armed robber had just made his getaway from the post office. A few meters away they noticed a man who "seemed to be suspicious" and pounced on him.

The man, a resident of Yeroham and known to police, shouted out to passersby: "These people are crooks. Stop them." He then snatched a detective's pistol and tried to flee, but was overpowered and arrested.

The bag he was carrying contained NIS 41,500 - the exact sum stolen from the post office - and a loaded 0.22 caliber pistol.

Police are now investigating whether the man is responsible for similar robberies in the city. He is expected to appear in court for a remand hearing today.

Israel, Ghana renew ties

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL and Ghana renewed diplomatic relations yesterday after a 21-year hiatus. Foreign Ministers Shimon Peres and Obed Asamoah announced in a joint communique.

Ghana, a western African country with a population of 15.5 million, severed ties with Israel along with most black African countries in the aftermath of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

However, the two countries maintained links even in difficult times. Ghana was the first decolonized black African country to establish relations with Israel in the late 1950s, and helped Israel forge links with other African countries at that time.

Even after ties were severed, Ghana agreed that Israel could maintain an interest section in the Swiss Embassy there for the next 17 years.

Many Israeli businesses continued to operate there in a variety of fields, and recently Israeli companies have become more involved in working on Ghanaian infrastructure.

Today, Papua New Guinea's defense minister, Paul Taro, will arrive here for a visit as the guest of Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Tobian will be briefed by Defense Ministry Director-General Ivry on the structure of the defense establishment and the capability of Israel's defense industry. He will visit various IDF bases and units, including the navy, Israel Industries, IAI and Elbit.

The president of Azerbaijan plans to visit Israel in mid-October, according to members of the Editors Committee who met with him in Baku. Gaider Eliav said he would arrive at the invitation of President Ezer Weizman. The editors are visiting in Baku as a part of a Jewish Agency tour of their activities in the CIS.

Bill would bar sale of tobacco products to minors

JUDY SIEGEL

LIKUD MK David Mena has proposed legislation that would hike the price of a pack of cigarettes by 25 agorot - with the money going to smoking prevention activities - and would bar sale of tobacco products to minors.

The private member's bill would also prohibit tobacco advertising aimed specifically at children and youths; anyone who violated these rules regarding minors would be fined NIS 10,000.

In addition, the health minister would be required to report annually to the Knesset War on Drugs Committee about the extent of smoking and the number of tobacco-related deaths during the previous year. According to the bill, all cigarette packs would have to have a clear warning on the front that they contain "the addictive drug nicotine." At present, the ministry only requires a warning on the side of the pack in small print saying smoking is "harmful to health."

Cabinet secretary Michael Nir

sent the bill to Health Minister Ephraim Sneh on July 28, asking him to state his views within two weeks. No comment was available yesterday from Sneh, who is about to return from a visit to the US.

A few weeks ago, the ministerial committee on legislation headed by Justice Minister David Liba'i voted down a private member's bill by Labor MK Yoram Lass that would set aside a fraction of tobacco taxes for the establishment of a public health-promotion foundation that would, among other things, publicize the dangers of smoking.

Liba'i argued that he was against smoking, but also opposed "dedicated taxes" (on a specific product for a certain purpose) as a matter of principle; Treasury officials agreed with this view. Sneh, who recently signed a regulation that will ban smoking in the workplace, did not appeal to the cabinet about this decision. The Mena bill is an expansion of the Lass bill.

Sting starting world tour with Jerusalem concert next month

LIAT COLLINS and DAVID BRINN

ROCK musician Sting will start his world tour with a concert at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool on September 18.

The Israeli leg of his trip will include a concert at Zema Beach on September 19 and the Rishon LeZion Amphipark the next day.

Tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday. For the first two weeks they will be sold at a discount of NIS 119 instead of NIS 129.

Sting, a former history teacher, is considered one of the leading promoters of socio-political-environmental messages within the world pop scene. He has also frequent-

ly sung out on subjects ranging from the British coal workers strike to the *desaparecidos* of South American regimes.

He first burst on the pop scene in the late 1970s as the leader of The Police, one of the more successful bands to emerge from the punk/new wave scene.

Since the band broke up in the early 1980s, the 42-year-old Sting has carved a successful solo career, producing five albums including *Bring on the Night*, *The Soul Cages*, *Nothing Like the Sun*, and *The Dream of the Blue Turtles*. He has also appeared in films.

Court to decide today if Deri's lawyers can quit

The Jerusalem District Court will hold a hearing tomorrow on whether or not MK Aryeh Deri's lawyers should be allowed to resign. Attorneys Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Amnon Zichroni told the court on Sunday that they could not continue to represent Deri in light of its decision to hold hearings five days a week, leaving them with no time to prepare from day to day.

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Bosnian army overruns Bihac area separatists

BOSNIAN government troops are overrunning Moslem separatists in the Bihac region, putting more than 7,000 civilians and rebel soldiers to flight, UN officials said yesterday.

Forces of the Moslem-led Bosnian government army had made major advances against rebels who backed local business tycoon Filaret Abdic in his fight against the Sarajevo government.

Thousands of soldiers and civilians were fleeing from the Bihac region of northwestern Bosnia into neighboring Croatia.

UN spokesman Paul Riskey told reporters: "Five thousand one hundred civilians and 1,600 armed and uniformed soldiers are crossing the border... This would appear to represent the end of Abdic's forces as an effective fighting unit."

Meanwhile, the government army's Fifth Corps was pushing towards Abdic's headquarters in the town of Velika Kladusa.

A UN spokesman in Sarajevo said: "The Fifth Corps have made significant gains towards the north and west. It's a general thrust up the road to Velika Kladusa, splitting rebel forces left and right."

Government troops had annihilated the rebels' main brigade and were now zeroing in on the heart of the breakaway Moslem province led by Abdic, UN spokesman Major Rob Annink told Reuters.

It was feared the retreat could bring about the involvement of Serbs in Croatia's breakaway Krajina region, who have helped Abdic in the past.

"It's a dangerous situation because the Krajina Serbs could join the conflict one way or another. The Fifth Corps could run into the Krajina Serbs," Annink said.

Abdic, a former member of the Bosnian leadership, split with Sarajevo almost a year ago in a disagreement over whether to accept an international peace plan for Bosnia.

He declared autonomy in part of the Bihac enclave of northwestern Bosnia and made deals with Serb forces in neighboring Croatia. His forces have been fighting the Bosnian government army ever since.

In an offensive last week, the Bosnian army overran the town of Pecigrad, capturing 1,000 of Abdic's troops and opening the way

DAVOR HUIĆ
ZAGREB

to breaking the resistance of his remaining forces.

The Bihac Press Agency said Bosnian army forces had seized 50 villages in the past two days, taking control of 57 sq km of territory formerly under Abdic's rule and capturing some of his troops.

Riskey told a news conference in Zagreb: "The situation is very fluid, if there is a (confrontation) line at all, it is probably much further north than it had been this morning."

There was no active fighting as Abdic's troops retreated across the border to Croatian territory controlled by the rebel Serbs, and set a camp near the border.

Riskey said the soldiers who crossed the border yesterday were armed but peaceful. But he added: "I am not sure how (Serbs) feel about those troops coming over," Riskey said.

There was no information on whether Abdic had left Velika Kladusa.

The United Nations believes the removal of Abdic's breakaway region could ease tension in the region.

"This may make the area much more peaceful, and therefore easier to maintain peace in the area," Riskey said. (Reuters)

Cuba reports boat hijacked

MIAMI (AP) — The Cuban government told US authorities yesterday morning that one of its boats has been hijacked, but there have been no sightings of the missing vessel, the Coast Guard said.

The vessel was identified by a US government source as a Cuban gunboat, but there was no immediate description of the boat or its size and no indication of the number of people aboard, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

US Coast Guard crews operating between Florida and Cuba were advised to watch for the boat and report any sightings to a Miami command center, but no reports had been received by noon, said Chief Warrant Officer Dan Waldschmidt.

"We're investigating a report from the Cuban government," he said. "The Coast Guard's involvement in it is that we've alerted our ships and aircraft that are in the vicinity to report any sightings of the vessel."

The Coast Guard has advised US immigration officials to be prepared to process a group of Cubans in Key West, Fla., said a government source

who spoke on condition of anonymity.

On Friday, Cuban President Fidel Castro threatened a replay of the Mariel boatlift of 1980 if the US government did not crack down on illegal immigration by Cuban refugees.

Castro made the threat after a series of hijackings of Cuban ferries and tugboats by Cubans seeking to flee the Communist country for the United States.

The 1980 boatlift from Cuba's Mariel harbor brought more than 125,000 Cubans to US shores over a five-month period. Among the Cuban refugees arriving in Florida were thousands of criminals and mentally ill Cubans.

US officials said they were prepared to block any new mass exodus of Cuban refugees and the State Department said it would not tolerate any such move by Castro. Leaders of the Cuban exile community in Miami also said they opposed any mass exodus and urged Castro's opponents to use their energies to topple his government rather than flee to the United States.

UK fishermen geared for 'tuna war'

LONDON (Reuters) — British fishermen involved in a "tuna war" off Spain began returning to the Bay of Biscay yesterday under the watchful eye of a stepped-up Royal Navy presence.

Britain yesterday sent a second navy fisheries protection ship to the area to protect the country's ships from attacks by rival Spanish tuna fishermen.

British fishermen say Spanish ships have surrounded them, threatened crews and cut nets in an escalating "tuna war" amid claims of the use of illegally long nets.

Spanish fishermen yesterday told British television reporters they would protect their cherished tuna fisheries from the drift net tech-

niques of fleets from Britain, France and Ireland, even if it meant illegally cutting British nets.

The Spanish vessels use lines and argue that the drift nets deplete the fishing grounds.

Agriculture Minister William Waldegrave said he had already warned his counterpart in Madrid that any action by Spanish boats against British fishermen would be "totally unacceptable."

But British fishermen, who have complained that the navy had so far appeared more concerned with being seen to apply European Union law than with protecting their country's boats, called for a tougher approach by the protection vessels.

Barrie Ball, skipper of the Charisma, told reporters: "We're calling for the protection vessels to use a bit more force against the Spanish."

The Charisma was boarded by British naval officers who seized its net and escorted it back to Devonport, southern England, on Sunday only to release the boat without charge.

The Spanish have some support from the environmental group Greenpeace which has dispatched its Rainbow Warrior ship to the area, prompting angry confrontations with French authorities.

Greenpeace argues the drift nets are catching not just tuna but thousands of dolphins and sharks.



A Rwandan refugee carries a tub of water at a distribution point in Kibumba, Zaire. (Reuters)

Typhus kills 19 in refugee camp

GOMA (AP) — A deadly fever thought to be typhus has killed 19 people in one of the cramped refugee camps near Goma, creating a new threat for nearly 1 million homeless Rwandans, a UN relief official said yesterday.

A spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 30 cases of the undiagnosed fever had been reported and there were fears it would spread.

The spokesman, Ray Wilkinson, said French military doctors thought the disease was typhus, but had sent blood samples to Marseille for testing and hoped to have the results by the weekend.

Typhus describes any of several infectious diseases characterized by high fever. It can be prevented by vaccination and treated with antibiotics.

The disease is commonly spread by lice, which abound among the filthy, largely unwashed refugees, who barely get enough clean water to drink each day.

The unsanitary conditions in the

as to their identity.

Most of the refugees in eastern Zaire are Hutus who fled Rwanda fearing retribution by a victorious rebel army led by Tutsis, the ethnic minority slaughtered by Hutu death squads.

Up to 500,000 men, women and children were shot and hacked to death in Rwanda in systematic killing that began four months ago. Most were Tutsis, although the victims included some moderate Hutus — opponents of a government dominated by Hutu extremists.

Thousands of defeated soldiers and officials of that regime have been actively discouraging the refugees from returning to their homes, spreading tales of atrocities against Hutus by the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front that now controls the government.

Despite isolated reports of revenge murders by Tutsis, the United Nations says it has no evidence of systematic retribution by the new government.

Bulldozers level former US Embassy in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Bulldozers have begun clearing away the ruins of the former US Embassy, blasted 11 years ago by a suicide truck bombing that killed 63 people and ushered in the terrorist campaign against Americans in Lebanon.

The embassy, which had been renting the seven-story building until the April 1983 explosion, is now operating from the northeast Beirut suburb of Aukar.

Authorities in the past week removed squatters from what remained of the U-shaped building on the Ein Mreisseh seafloor.

Owners brought in contractors to clear rubble and make way for a new building.

A total of 63 people died in the Ein Mreisseh embassy, the first suicide bombing in Lebanon. Among the victims were 13 Americans.

The bombing was claimed by pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem extremists of Islamic Jihad. It was followed six months later by similar truck bombings of a US Marine base and a French paratroop compound in Beirut that killed 300 American and French servicemen.

The new embassy compound in Aukar also was attacked by a suicide bomber in September 1984, killing more than a dozen people.

Space explorers meet in Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts shared earthly concerns yesterday at the opening of a congress of space explorers devoted to protecting the planet's ecology.

The 10th congress of Association of Space Explorers opened on Red Square, where a giant bell-shaped balloon floated between the graceful, colorful onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral and the Kremlin's Spassky Tower.

"I'm very happy to be here in Moscow," said Tom Stafford, the first astronaut to participate in the joint US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz program of the 1970s. Stafford delivered his brief remarks in Russian.

President Boris Yeltsin sent his congratulations to the congress, saying in a message that space veterans could contribute to international space endeavors and worldwide efforts to resolve ecological problems.

"The future of the Earth wholly depends on joint efforts by all the countries and people aimed at environmental protection, including the wide possibilities offered by manned spacecraft," Yeltsin said.

Participants stressed the importance of space cooperation now that the space race has ended.

"We come to celebrate this brotherhood among those who have flown in space," said astronaut John Fabian, who serves as co-chairman of the association. "We also come to celebrate the beginning of a new era of cooperative space ventures. Let us always in the future proceed together as we move out into space."

Russia has struggled to keep its ailing space program afloat after the collapse of the former Soviet Union and the introduction of market reforms forced severe budget cutbacks.

O.J. moved to smaller cell

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former football great O.J. Simpson has been moved to a smaller jail cell as his attorneys continue to seek all the prosecution's evidence.

The move from a second to ground floor cell of the Los Angeles County Jail was to save overtime costs.

Lead defense attorney Robert Shapiro wanted to resolve his motions seeking access to telephone records and the backgrounds of potential witnesses at a hearing set for today.

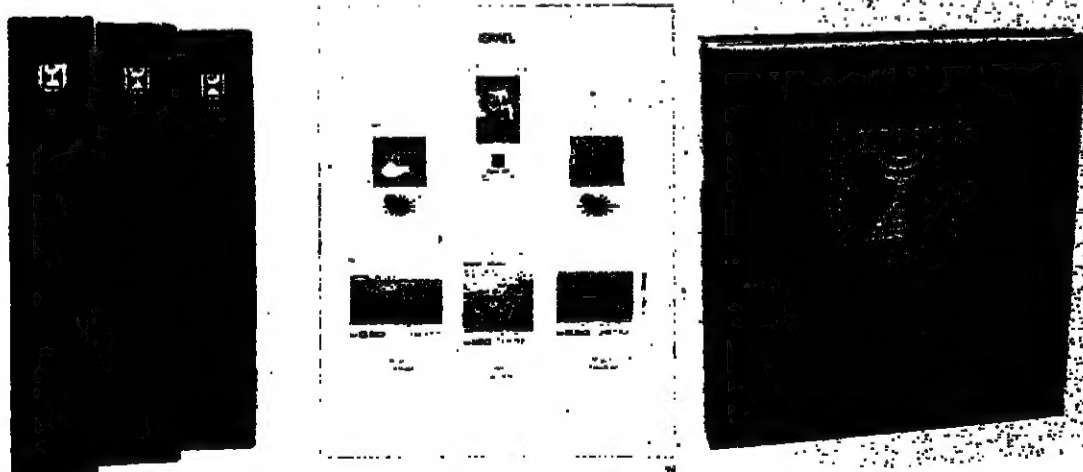
Also before Superior Court Judge Lance Ito were a pair of media motions involving coverage of the trial, and two motions that were sealed and undisclosed.

The defense opposes a bid by several news organizations to see photographs of the murder scene and sealed transcripts of in-chambers conferences between the judge and lawyers.

Defense attorneys said disclosing the discussions could "shatter the private lives of prospective witnesses and third parties... currently unknown to the press."

In the second motion, a group of broadcast news organizations has petitioned the judge to bar a defense lawyer from talking with print reporters in the courtroom unless cameras and microphones monitor the conversations.

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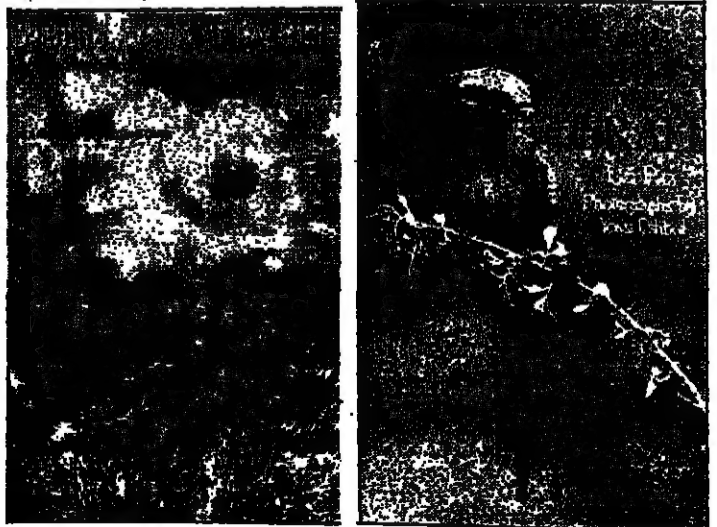
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Arafat takes to pan-Arab road on Jerusalem

IN SPITE of Yasser Arafat's decision to reverse his closure of *An-Nahar* and *Akbar al-Bilad*, he is still concerned with steps to limit Jordanian influence in the territories.

Steps he intends to take include limits on unofficial visits to Amman and restrictions on the influence of traditional figures identified with Jordan. Arafat is also thinking of establishing a Palestinian Islamic Waqf which could claim control of the Jerusalem holy places.

Sources close to Arafat say that in the political arena the PLO leader plans to face the competition over Jerusalem by direct talks with Jordan. A delegation to Amman will propose a formula for Jordan to recognize Palestinian control and authority in Jerusalem, during the negotiations on final arrangements.

If the delegation to Amman fails, Arafat plans to move the problem to the pan-Arab level. To prepare for this, he has already made contact with Saudi deputy minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, President Hosni Mubarak and King Hassan of Morocco.

Arafat did not visit Amman for this pan-Arab effort, but met King

Hussein in Cairo so the Egyptians would act as patron for any Jordanian-Palestinian agreements.

For its part, Jordan is not excited by the issue, since it has already achieved what it wanted regarding Jerusalem in contacts with Israel.

PALESTINIAN sources say President Mubarak played an important role in calming the storm over the holy places. Mubarak asked King Fahd to refrain from getting involved in the Jerusalem issue after the Saudis too were surprised by the Washington Declaration.

According to reports, Riyadh hardened its stance on the boycott issue. On the other hand, Mubarak urged Prime Minister Rabin at Taba to calm Arafat by telling him the Washington Declaration did not represent a final Israeli commitment to grant Jordan control of Jerusalem's holy places, and the issue would be decided in talks for the final arrangement.

Mubarak told Rabin it had been a mistake to mention Jerusalem in the declaration, as it angered important Arab backers of the peace process like the PLO, Morocco, the Saudis and even Egypt itself.

Western diplomatic sources say King Hassan, who heads the Jeru-

salem Committee established in Fez in 1982, called Rabin and was adamant that this was a one-sided Israeli initiative on Jerusalem. Hassan told Rabin it was a deliberate attempt to push Morocco's role on the question of Jerusalem to the sidelines, and this could disturb the close relations which have been developing between Morocco and Israel.

The sources said Hassan's call stemmed from a telephone conversation with Arafat. The sources said the return of Jerusalem to the center of the conflict is now unavoidable in the coming period (of negotiations).

By Raja Taleb, Al-Bilad, Jordan, August 3

THE aid Iran gives Islamic organizations and various groups in other countries is no secret.

Every February, the chiefs of these organizations arrive in Tehran to pay homage at Ayatollah Khomeini's grave and discuss future strategy with Iranian leaders. Official Iranian statistics show that Iran spends \$500 million every year to support its radical proxies abroad.

Some believe that Hizbullah gets at least half of this amount,



yet the relationship between Iran and these organizations is not one of commander to subordinate.

That Hizbullah did Iran's bidding when it kidnapped Western hostages does not mean that Hizbullah or other organizations supported by Iran do everything Iran demands. But one can say the opposite is true — it is possible for Iran to exert pressure on most of these organizations to stop them carrying out certain actions.

Iran recently put several Western European countries on a "friendly" list, because they agreed to consolidate Iranian debts and grant Iran new loans. One can therefore assume that Iran will do whatever it can to prevent terrorist actions in Germany, France, Italy and Austria.

Similarly, Iran has avoided terrorist actions in the US since 1989 because President Hashimi Rafsanjani has been hoping to renew diplomatic relations with the US.

But no one can expect Iran to pressure Hizbullah or other organizations or prevent them from acting against Israeli targets in revenge for Israeli attacks.

In addition to these radical organizations, Iran has a network of terrorist cells. Western intelligence sources say that these cells are located in at least 20 states, including the US, Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Pakistan.

These cells are not used for action against Israel or any other state. Their fundamental role is to keep track of Iranian exiles who may act against the government.

The number of Iranians abroad is around 3.2 million in 50 countries, from Australia to Argentina.

The cells have been involved in 40 assassination attempts in the last decade.

THEIR activities concern four main targets:

- former army officers suspected of collaboration with Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war;
- prominent members of the organization Mujahadeen Khalq, which operates from Baghdad and which Tehran believes is responsible for terrorist actions in Iran;
- any Iranian who may appear pivotal in the opposition to the Iranian regime;
- senior former members of the shah's government and certain members of the shah's family.

It is not known if the members of these cells have ever helped in terrorist actions performed by organizations that are not Iranian.

But if they did, their actions would have to be approved by the High Committee for National Defense, the highest authority for shaping state decisions in Iran.

The cells report directly to the ministries of defense and intelligence, which are under the High Committee for National Defense. Presumably, Iran will not endanger its cells only to accommodate Hizbullah and Hamas. On the other hand, when Iran launched actions against other states it employed non-Iranians. The terrorist wave in Paris in 1986 was carried out on Iranian orders, but the executors came from Lebanon, Tunisia and Algeria.

One should also take into account terrorist sections of organi-

zations that do not belong to the government. These organizations constitute a "state within a state," and have representations in many capitals from Beirut to London.

Many of them act under the guise of charitable and educational institutions. One such institution publishes a daily paper in London, another issues a weekly in Illinois.

Many of these institutions are headed by revolutionary religious leaders. Many members of terrorist organizations which attacked the shah's regime in the 1960s and 1970s are active in them. Iran does not have much control over these groups whose members have been suspected of assassinating leading Iranians from rival factions.

The assumption that Iran is a state with an efficient organizational structure which makes clear decisions and executes them with precision is incorrect.

Iran is still in the thick of revolutionary unrest. The apparatus of the revolution is constantly infringing on the state apparatus. Some of the Western countries know that they have to aid what's left of the state apparatus to retard the revolutionary encroachment.

By Amir Taheri, A-Shark al-Awsat (Saudi), London, July 30

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Many of them act under the guise of charitable and educational institutions. One such institution publishes a daily paper in London, another issues a weekly in Illinois.

Many of these institutions are headed by revolutionary religious leaders. Many members of terrorist organizations which attacked the shah's regime in the 1960s and 1970s are active in them. Iran does not have much control over these groups whose members have been suspected of assassinating leading Iranians from rival factions.

The assumption that Iran is a state with an efficient organizational structure which makes clear decisions and executes them with precision is incorrect.

Iran is still in the thick of revolutionary unrest. The apparatus of the revolution is constantly infringing on the state apparatus. Some of the Western countries know that they have to aid what's left of the state apparatus to retard the revolutionary encroachment.

By Amir Taheri, A-Shark al-Awsat (Saudi), London, July 30



Leyla Zana, one of six former Kurdish deputies charged with treason, identifies herself during their trial, which began in Ankara's State Security Court last week. The six are accused of supporting separatism, which carries the death penalty. (AP)

PLO chairman promises to straighten out his books

YASSER Arafat, responding to blunt warnings from the US and Egypt, promised this week to straighten out the PLO's chaotic financial management and complete long-delayed paperwork to clear the way for badly needed international aid.

In back-to-back meetings, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher told Arafat that the fledgling Palestinian Authority in the Gaza District and Jericho must act at once to convince international donors that aid money will be properly spent.

According to a senior US official, Arafat pledged to sign a US private investment agreement that has been delayed since June and to complete project specifications required by the World Bank, most of them pending for months. He also said the Palestinian Authority has begun collecting taxes after a slow start.

At the same time, Christopher said he has written to the world's richest countries urging them to begin honoring more than \$2 billion in pledges made last year to finance the experiment in Palestinian self-government.

"Time is of the essence," Christopher said during a joint news

NORMAN KEMPSTER
ALEXANDRIA

conference with Mubarak. "It is important to have projects on the ground" to show restive Palestinians that last September's peace agreement with Israel will pay off in improved living conditions.

Christopher visited Alexandria, Mubarak's vacation capital, at the start of his trip to the Middle East.

The US and its allies have become increasingly impatient with the sloppy bookkeeping, inept fiscal management and cumbersome administration of the PLO-run government in Gaza and Jericho.

Christopher has often urged Arafat to get his house in order, without much effect.

This time, the Clinton administration tried to double-team the PLO leader. At Washington's suggestion, Mubarak invited Arafat to lunch before the Egyptian president's meeting with Christopher.

US officials said Arafat was then invited to join the Mubarak-Christopher meeting because the PLO chairman had seemed cooperative in his talks with the Egyptian president.

The senior US official said Mubarak talked very little during the three-way meeting but that "the

chairman seems to be more responsive in making commitments when he is in the presence of President Mubarak. When he's got the two of us there, he can't say one thing to one of us and another to the other."

The official confirmed that Arafat did not bring any of the long-delayed documents with him but that "there were some very clear commitments."

The [World] Bank has a fair number of projects that are ready to put contracts out on, but they require final project design specifications from the Palestinians," the official said. "That has not been finished, even though it was requested more than a month ago."

He said the PLO has not yet signed an agreement with the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation — a step required for US private loans — although Washington submitted the plan in June. The official said Arafat promised to sign the agreement "immediately."

The Palestinian Authority is desperate for cash to finance its police and other government operations, but the PLO has resisted demands for greater accountability.

(Los Angeles Times)

Qazvin riots challenge Iran's ruling clergy

YOUSSEF AZMEH
DUBAI

RIOTS in Qazvin in the past week have again raised questions about the durability of Iran's ruling clergy more than five years after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Residents and most diplomats in the region said the limited aims of the protests in the northern city and their largely ethnic origins did not appear to pose any immediate threat to the government's staying power.

Residents noted with some surprise that the rioters had apparently failed to raise hot issues on everyone's lips — inflation, unemployment and corruption.

But opponents abroad of Iran's Islamic government saw the riots, following recent unrest in other cities like Mashhad and Zahedan, as a further sign that the regime was collapsing under the weight of economic and political problems.

Some diplomats said the eruption into violence of ethnic and religious differences might reflect a loss of authority by Khomeini's heirs, with their popularity perhaps at an all-time low.

"It would have been unthinkable under Khomeini," one said.

"They simply do not have his charisma or toughness. A word from him would have silenced those people instantly," he said of three days of riots in Qazvin.

Another recalled that ethnic and religious dissent was severely

suppressed under Khomeini. Autonomy-seeking Kurds, for example, were savagely crushed.

The riots, in which at least three people died, erupted late last week after the Iranian Majlis (parliament) threw out a bill that would have made Farsi-speaking Qazvin a separate province.

"They [the rioters] limited themselves to provincial issues... Maybe that is why they attracted large numbers of people, both supporters and opponents of the regime," one resident said.

People of the industrial city, which gives its name to the Caspian Sea about 100 km. to the north, resent being subordinate to nearby Zanj, dominated by Azeris who speak a Turkic tongue also used in Azerbaijan.

The Farsi-speakers are the original Persians who continue to largely dominate Iran, although they are now believed to constitute a minority of its multi-ethnic 60 million people.

"They do not want to answer to Turks in Zand," one resident said of the Farsi-speakers of Qazvin, 150 km. northwest of Tehran. They also feel local problems they have no direct access to the capital.

The riots subsided after the government moved quickly to meet protesters half way. Although it would not declare the city the center of a separate province, Qazvin was detached from Zanj and made part of Tehran province.

Riots in Mashhad last year followed attempts by the mayor to pull down houses erected by squatters on the city's outskirts.

Zahedan, a city close to Pakistan inhabited mainly by Baluchis belonging to Iran's minority Sunnis, erupted into violence earlier this year on reports that a Sunni mosque had been demolished.

Bombs killed scores of people at a Mashhad shrine and Khomeini's mausoleum in Tehran in June. Both incidents were blamed on the Iraqi-based opposition group Mujahideen Khalq. The Mujahideen have denied responsibility.

Although no one in Iran thinks the ruling clergy are about to be toppled, riots and bombings are undermining confidence in the mullahs' ability to control events, residents and diplomats said.

"They do not appear to have their finger on the people's pulse," one diplomat said, noting that the Qazvin riots caught the authorities completely unprepared.

"It was their own people who took part in the riots," another said of the disturbances. Four banks and 12 shops were ransacked.

The official news agency IRNA reported late that tens of thousands of paramilitary Basij, the revolution's volunteer vigilantes, toured Qazvin at the weekend to demonstrate support for the revolution and its leaders.

One resident said the riots could not have spread so widely if the Basij and other revolutionary groups in the city had tried to stop them.

"I would not be surprised if some of these same men took part in the riots," he added. (Renter)

Calls to hang Bangladesh writer

DHAKA — Moslem fanatics say they will march on Parliament to call for the hanging of Bangladesh's feminist author accused of criticizing Islam.

Leaders of 13 radical groups have formed a Combined Action Committee and also will hold demonstrations across Bangladesh, said Moulana Fazlul Huq Amin, secretary of the group.

Fundamentalists have been calling for Taslima Nasrin's death since June, when she was quoted in an Indian newspaper as urging a revision of koranic ideas.

"If our demands are not met by the end of this month we will cor-

don Parliament when it meets next month and force the government to accept the people's demand," Amin said.

Nasrin emerged from hiding last week to be charged in court with insulting Islam — a crime punishable by up to two years in prison. She was freed on bail and went back into hiding.

Despite urging from friends, Nasrin says she has no immediate plan to leave Bangladesh but may

consider an invitation to attend an international literary conference in Europe in September, her family said.

Many European nations offered sanctuary to the 31-year-old author after the fanatics announced rewards for her killing.

Nasrin's writings criticize male domination in Islam. She has favored revision of Islamic law to give more rights to women. (AP)

Algerian head invites eight parties to discuss return to democracy

ALGIERS — Algerian President Liamine Zouari, battling violence blamed on Moslem militants, is inviting eight political parties to meet him on August 21 for talks on returning the country to democracy.

Those invited include two moderate Islamic parties but exclude the biggest opposition party, the now banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) whose landslide lead in a first round led the authorities in January 1992 to cancel the nation's first multi-party general election.

Algeria's presidency, in a statement quoted by the official news agency APS, said: "The framework for this dialogue has been defined: it is the respect of the constitution and laws, and

the rejection of violence." Several previous attempts at political dialogue have failed to resolve the civil strife and have been boycotted by some of the main opposition parties.

More than 4,000 people — mainly members of the security forces and Moslem militants — have been killed in the violence that erupted after the cancellation of the election.

Since late last year there has been a mass exodus of foreigners after the Armed Islamic Group gave them a deadline to get out or be killed. More than 50 foreigners have since died violently, the latest being five French nationals last week.

France detained an Algerian student in its police sweep follow-

ing Islamic terrorist threats to the state this week. He was held for possessing ammunition and Islamic fundamentalist propaganda.

Abderramane Chenine, 24, was formally placed under investigation in the French city of Rouen on suspicion of belonging to an armed group and conspiring in terrorist activities. He was ordered to be remanded in custody.

Sources said Chenine had withdrawn a parcel containing 100 bullets, two pistol magazines and two pistol silencers from a supermarket luggage locker.

They said police later found in his room literature signed by Rabah Kebir, German-based leader in exile of Algeria's outlawed FIS. (Agencies)

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Now the PLO and Arafat

WITH the photo opportunities, festive ceremonies and symbolic gestures on the Jordanian track behind him, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will today get down to the far more difficult and less glamorous task of negotiating with PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

Not that the problems to be addressed with Jordan are trivial. On the contrary, it would be foolish to assume the differences over the Jordanian demand for more water from the Yarmuk river, and the dispute over fertile tracts of land in the Arava (the only lands not won in the 1967 war Israel is being asked to relinquish) can be resolved overnight. Nor is King Hussein's reported intention to transfer 800,000 refugees from Jordan to Judea and Samaria amenable to compromise. The resettlement of even half of this number in the territories can create hopeless destabilization.

But all these problems are dwarfed by the challenges of translating the agreement with the PLO into reality. The fact is that the only concrete PLO achievement to date has been that the Palestinian Police seem in control of the self-rule areas. But restiveness in these areas appears to be growing. Army posts in the Gaza District, particularly near Khan Yunis, are being stoned daily, Israeli vehicles are shot at with almost the same frequency, and even demonstrations against Arafat - not only by the Hamas - have taken place in both Jericho and Gaza.

Economic improvements alone may not cause nationalist and religious fanaticism to disappear. As the farewell broadcast of the PLO radio in Algeria on Monday (before its functions are taken

over by the PLO radio in the territories) seems to indicate, the Arab enmity for Israel may be deeper than anything economic improvement can cure. All the old familiar slogans of permanent war were sounded again, not by the Hamas "opposition" but by Arafat's own "foreign minister" Farouk Kaddoumi. "There is no way that we will relinquish one grain of the Palestinian land," he said, "We will not rest until the occupiers are thrown out."

But while economic development is no guarantor of peace, there is little doubt that if economic conditions deteriorate, the present restiveness will become an uncontrollable explosion.

Arafat, who has shown consistent preference for wrong priorities, may use the opportunity to complain to Rabin about the absence of free passage from Gaza to Jericho, or the concessions to Jordan on Jerusalem. But the Israeli negotiators should remind him of the facts of life: Israel's Treasury cannot and will not continue to carry the economic burden of the self-rule areas. And unless the PLO forms a viable financial structure able to absorb foreign contributions and investments, and be accountable for them, and unless it develops a mechanism to dispense the moneys productively, the self-rule areas will collapse.

Reportedly, Arafat would rather discuss early empowerment, the release of prisoners, elections in the territories and the status of Jerusalem. But to talk of PLO control of the rest of the territories before it has proved capable of building the most elementary foundation of autonomous existence is a useless, foolhardy exercise.

Black and white issues

EVEN the best friends of the United States would find it hard to credit its foreign policy with much consistency, especially since the end of the Cold War. In the old black-white days of superpower confrontation, there was at least some geopolitical logic in supporting states "with us" against those "with them."

Thus, some dictatorships became friends of Washington while some relatively harmless socialist states were marked down as enemies. This has left a legacy of confusion about what philosophy - if any - now underpins America's relations with the rest of the world. Of course the politicians in any administration have the all-American answer: the United States is for democracy, human rights and free enterprise, and supports those who espouse them. Unfortunately, there are now some very awkward questions surrounding this noble answer.

If democracy is a cornerstone, why is it more important in Haiti than in Cuba? If liberty is an unquestioned right, why do Cuban refugees gain unfettered access to the United States while Haitians do not? More than 5,000 Cuban fugitives have all been taken in so far this year - not for their torturous processing and probable repatriation facing the Haitian boat people. Cuba may be no economic paradise, but its people are not being slaughtered in the streets and villages as in Haiti.

If black-white Cold War policies are no longer

valid, critics have been quick to wonder about a more unavailing black-white attitude. It has been suggested that US policy on Haiti is driven by nothing more than an overwhelming desire to keep out its poor black emigrants at all costs. There was also a nasty suspicion that US businessmen lobbying Congress would prefer to keep Haitians in a useful low-wage economy than have them prospering under President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's minimum-wage reforms.

This would explain the ambivalent attitude Washington has always had towards the man they now allegedly support, the same ousted Aristide. What seemed to matter then to democratically-minded Washington was not that Aristide was swept to power with 67 percent of the popular vote, but that the US-groomed Marc Bazin, an ex-World Bank official, gained only 14 percent.

Subsequent US criticism and undercutting of President Aristide contributed to his downfall by hinting to Haitian dictator Raoul Cedras that Washington would adopt a benign attitude to his coup. US Ambassador Alvin Adams even said then that Cedras was "part of the solution, not the problem." It is up to President Clinton to dispel any further doubts about the moral basis of US foreign policy before he ventures into the unknown waters of an invasion and possible occupation of Haiti under the banner of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEXIST PRESIDENT

Sir, - I don't know what standards Leon Charney applies in determining whether a person is sexist ("Weizman adviser: President isn't sexist," July 24), but it would appear to me that anybody who persists in maintaining that women should not be admitted into pilot-training courses because they are not suited to flying is expressing blatantly discriminatory views.

As Commander of the Israel Air Force, President Weizman coined the well-known motto "The best [men] go to the pilots; the best [women] go to the pilots" (a phrase more euphonious in the original Hebrew than in English). If that isn't sexism, I'd like to know what is!

Unfortunately, President Weizman, who is a man of great personal charm and considerable distinction, seems unimpressed so far as his attitude towards women is concerned. Were he more alert to the need to serve as a model of egalitarianism he would surely have endorsed the participation of a greater number of women in the recent conference on Israel-Diaspora relations which he sponsored.

ALICE SHALVI
Jerusalem.

CORRECTION

The bylines of Efraim Inbar and Charles Krauthammer on yesterday's page 6 were inadvertently switched. Inbar wrote the article "Syria can wait," and Krauthammer wrote "No need to approve."

BEILIN'S STAND

Sir, - In a recent newspaper interview (*Ha'aretz*, July 25), Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin listed a number of important principles which should be followed in all negotiations. The deputy foreign minister rejected the possibility of any compromise on Israel's refusal to permit the return of refugees from 1948. Referring to a United Nations resolution which addresses the issue of refugees, Beilin said "There is no sense, no logic, to go back to Resolution 194, which the Arab nations all rejected at the time. Today there are new facts on the ground." When asked if there are contingency plans to deal with a possible crisis on this matter, Beilin replied "If there is not a solution, so there won't be. It can only hold up a number of important principles:

1. Even UN resolutions must be considered within their historical

context and not blindly adhered to.

2. When a nation feels strongly about a position it does not have to compromise on it.

3. If the other parties to negotiations are not willing to accept Israel's position on what she considers to be nonnegotiable then Israel has no choice but to stand back and wait for her negotiating partners to accept her position.

If the Rabin government was willing to take such a steadfast position on such critical security issues as the future of the Golan, there would be no grounds to fear that our nation's future may be jeopardized in the negotiations now under way. Unfortunately, the same Yossi Beilin, who takes such a clear stand on the 1948 refugee issue, has advocated a total withdrawal from the Golan simply because the Syrians won't accept anything less.

Rafaela DR. AARON LERNER

IN PRAISE OF ARUTZ 7

All those who listen regularly to Arutz 7 have come to expect the cultured tone, polite manner and love for all of Am Yisrael and Eretz Yisrael as a constant.

It would behoove the rest of the radio stations in Israel to adopt the accuracy and clean style of Arutz 7.

Beit El H. VOELH



IDF budget can be cut

EVERY year, when the new state budget comes up for Knesset debate, an argument ensues over the defense allocation and whether it can be cut and the resources saved channeled to other national goals.

So the letters a premier and defense minister once wrote to the chief of the general staff, partly summarized below, are relevant:

"Let me outline briefly my considered opinion," he wrote:

"The security of the State of Israel does not depend only on the army but also on the nation's economic, financial, professional and moral capabilities. The defense forces must not be deployed on the assumption that war could break out at any moment (though, of course, no one can guarantee the reverse). For if the army is always geared for war, the people cannot follow suit and be prepared the day a war really erupts."

"It is impossible - and also harmful - to act without taking any risk and without calculated consideration; the country cannot in any way bear the current burden of the defense budget."

"It is essential to reduce the defense budget not on the basis of today's calculations but those worked out in drawing up the budget. Without a balanced budget, the defense segment would basically be destroyed, prices and wages would rise, and we would not be able to pay wages except by printing more money. That will not strengthen the country's security..."

Writing a second letter on the same subject, the minister said "Our real defense budget is that for immigration

SHLOMO GAZIT

tion absorption and for development, in addition to the allocation for the IDF. We must make desperate efforts to achieve economic independence, otherwise we shall not exist and be able to renew the endeavor of the ingathering of the exiles. These efforts will aid defense (more than) maintaining a high level of manpower in the army."

Do we indeed want to flash a message to the Syrians of intensified Israeli military preparedness?

"I know the IDF is suffering from the results of rising costs, but it, in itself, represents a crisis of this. Without a reduction [of military expenditures], we shall not escape another round of inflation, which in turn will again hurt the IDF."

THESE LETTERS were written by David Ben-Gurion on September 4 and November 20, 1952, to then chief of staff Yigal Yadin.

Since then, 42 years have elapsed but the words are just as valid today as they were then. Furthermore,

Heaven forbid we should ignore today's special circumstances:

Firstly, the national intelligence estimate does not predict a large-scale war in the near future. The country is enjoying a period when it does not have to be on alert, confronting the threat of overall war. Any change in this situation, should it occur, will still allow us adequate time for emergency steps of renewed military preparation.

Secondly, Israel is in the throes of a political process. The military budget and military-security activity are a signal to the other side of Israel's strategic intentions. Do we indeed want to flash a message to the Syrians of intensified Israeli military preparedness?

The prime minister has warned - in all probability justifiably - that if a political agreement with Damascus is not attained within the next three years, the alternative could be war. Whoever now sends a message of readiness for war would appear to be notifying the other side that Israel does not believe in the prospects of an accommodation.

I am sure the IDF command does not intend this: it is sincerely striving for an optimal work program for the defense system. The role of the premier and defense minister and that of the government and the Knesset is to perceive considerations beyond the immediate, narrow defense view, and to take courageous decisions in the spirit of Ben-Gurion 42 years ago.

The writer, a former IDF chief of intelligence, is a senior research fellow at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University.

'Refugees' help Israel-bashers

A small group of former "olim" from Russia and other parts of the former Soviet Union have applied for and received refugee status in Canada. They are recruited through newspaper ads promising to overcome Canadian immigration laws. The primary claim for refugee status is that in Israel, non-Jews are subject to "religious and sexual harassment."

Although the numbers are very small (300 out of over 500,000 immigrants who have arrived in Israel in the past five years), the issue has major political importance. By granting this group refugee status, the Canadian government is essentially placing Israel in the same category as Haiti, Iran and Iraq. This led to a stiff protest from our Foreign Ministry, and the deputy director-general for North America, Elton Bensur, pointed out that no other democratic country is considered to be a source of potential refugees.

Although Canadian officials claimed that the refugee status was not granted by the Canadian government but came as a result of a decision by the independent Immigration and Refugee Boards, the policy was endorsed by the minister of immigration. In a shrill and insulting response to Israeli protests, Sergio Marchi, Canada's immigration minister, compared Israel to Iraq under Saddam Hussein. He later apologized for this remark.

The policy, though, is clearly absurd. As Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin noted, many Canadians move to Israel, but Israel does not confer official refugee status upon them. Taking the argument one step further, how would Canada respond if French Canadians from Toronto, or English-speakers from Montreal, were granted refugee status in the United States on the basis of religious or linguistic discrimination? During the Holocaust, when millions of Jews were seeking refuge from real persecution, Canada's policy was "none is too many."

In many respects, Canada's present policy reflects a long-standing hostility and a proclivity towards Israel-bashing in the press and parts of the Canadian government. Historically, Canada was relatively supportive, beginning with a stand in favor of parti-

GERALD M. STEINBERG

tion and the establishment of Israel in 1948. Canada also joined the US and a small number of other countries in opposing the infamous 1975 UN resolution branding Zionism as "racism."

However, over the years, the Canadian emphasis on morality, idealism, human rights and international law, has not been applied to Israel. Some Canadian bureaucrats and policy makers, particularly from the Foreign Ministry (formerly known as the Department of External Affairs), demonstrate an Arabist bias. For many years, this group was quick to sympathize with the "victimization" of the Palestinians, and to join in the vilification of Israel. In addition, some

and welfare to the equivalent of 10 percent of its population. No other country in the world can make this claim. It is true that Jewish immigrants to Israel are eligible to become citizens upon arrival (in keeping with the concept of a Jewish state, which is Israel's raison d'être), but this does not constitute discrimination or "religious persecution." All states, and Canada in particular, give citizens rights and privileges not granted to visitors and temporary residents. Indeed, a large percentage of immigrants falsely declare their Jewishness in order to obtain citizenship, but are not forced to leave or harassed as a result.

Most importantly, Israel does not restrict the re-emigration of anyone, and the claims made to Canadian immigration appeals boards are clearly false. The ease with which these claims were accepted are a sign of deliberate hostility, evidence of an appalling ignorance of conditions in Israel, or both. If the Canadian government and immigration authorities were genuinely concerned about the fate of these people (mostly non-Jews), they would allow or even encourage them to immigrate directly from Russia. The number of Russians allowed to immigrate directly to Canada is very small, and it is often easier to move to Israel, and then cynically charge Israel with persecution in order to enter Canada as refugees.

Once the facts are clarified, this incident should provide a basis for clearing the air and correcting the distortions. Instead of joining the popular sport of Israel-bashing, Canada should be a primary supporter for Israel in the international community, and a major contributor to the peace process. Indeed, during the past few years, particularly since Ambassador Norman Specter was posted to the embassy in Tel Aviv, bilateral relations have improved significantly. To damage done to Israel's image, the Canadian government owes us a public apology, and a clear recognition of the generosity of Israel's refugee policy.

The writer directs research on security and arms control at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

Promote peace

GEORGE MCGOVERN

THE Clinton administration has taken some knocks for its handling of foreign policy in Haiti, Bosnia and North Korea. But it is on the road to success in the Middle East.

In its support of the Israeli-PLO agreement for Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho and in bringing King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin together for their public pledge to make peace, the administration has taken important steps in bolstering moderates and undercutting extremists.

To further blunt the resentment that kindles extremism and violence, our policy must be to promote peace, economic development and political participation in the region.

It is important to understand that when people are poor and powerless, they may turn to extremism and violence to change their circumstances. This is true whether we are talking about the Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon or the South Bronx. Extremism is not an inherent feature of Islam. It grows out of suffering. So in confronting the threat of extremist Islamic movements or extremist secular movements, we should alleviate the root causes of their extremism: poverty, corruption and repression.

The Clinton administration has recognized this and should be especially commended for pledging \$500 million over five years to build a Palestinian self-governing body and rehabilitate the devastated Palestinian economy. Careful spending of these funds will be key to the success of Palestinian self-rule, as will democratic elections.

Extremism is not an inherent feature of Islam. It grows out of suffering.

The administration also has worked wisely to assure neighboring Arab governments that the US is committed to a comprehensive peace that includes them. In particular, it has engaged in detailed discussions meant to build on Israel's willingness to withdraw gradually from the Golan Heights, Syria's willingness to normalize relations gradually, and the interest of both parties in international, including American, security guarantees.

Success in mediating land-for-peace agreements between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as a final agreement that extends Palestinian self-rule throughout most of the West Bank will further undercut extremists.

Even the terrorist attacks against Jewish offices in Buenos Aires and London appear to be an extension of the still unresolved conflict between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hizbullah in Lebanon.

Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon and from the Golan Heights in return for secure peace agreements will diminish Hizbullah's grievances and end Syria's rationale for tolerating guerrilla operations from southern Lebanon by Hizbullah and other extremist movements. This will reduce, but not eliminate, the opportunities for factions in Iran to support attacks against Israel. We will make it harder for Iranian extremists to fish in troubled waters by doing something to calm the waters. This is an integral part of an effort to contain Iran's extremist elements.

Arab-Israeli peace will bring about the economic growth and prosperity that has been blocked by decades of war and civil strife. It will finally permit the removal of needless barriers to trade and investment, the sharing of water resources and the reduction of military spending. Israel and most of the Arab neighbors will benefit from these developments.

These developments will in turn lead to more open political systems in the Arab world.

Elections in Lebanon and in Israel are likely to be won by moderates. Authoritarian military leaders will no longer be able to justify their rule by pointing to an Israeli threat. In time, economic intercourse and liberalization will create movement toward political liberalization even in Syria.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, dialogue and cooperation with Islamist moderates - and foreign economic aid - may be the only chance Algeria's secular government has to undercut surging Islamic extremists. But it may be too late there. Meanwhile, Egypt's secular government should take care not to turn its drive against Islamist militants into a drive against Islamist moderates.

Hardship and repression have bred extremism in the Middle East. During the Cold War, a fear that the Soviets were behind unrest in the Third World made it hard for many to see or sympathize with this. Now, a pervasive misunderstanding of Islam makes it hard to see. But Clinton administration officials see it and know that they have to help relieve these conditions to pave the way for moderation.

The writer, a former senator from South Dakota and 1972 Democratic presidential nominee, is president of the Middle East Policy Council, a nonprofit public-interest group in Washington.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Road safety: Not for adults only

HAIM SHAPIRO

ERAN Reznikov was too lazy to cross at the crosswalk and was hit by a car; Gili Cohen was on her way to a Pessah seder when the car she was in was forced off the road; Lola Shilo has a friend injured in a road accident.

They are among 75 youngsters taking part in a massive public-relations campaign for highway safety launched by Time to Live, an organization created at the initiative of MK Avraham Burg, chairman of the Knesset Education Committee. The campaign is being underwritten by L'Oreal, the cosmetics firm.

It is not yet clear if the campaign is reducing the number of accidents, but it is certainly grabbing the attention of children. When the producers gave out a telephone number for children who wanted to broadcast their own road-safety message, some 10,000 applied.

These messages are being broadcast three times a day on Channel 2, during programs for children and youth. Asked why the campaign should be directed at children, when it is adults who drive cars, Lola, 16, of Tel Aviv, explains that accidents occur through the fault of drivers or pedestrians, or both.

"Both have a responsibility," she says.

Eran, a 19-year-old Kfar Sava resident, was crippled as the result of his accident four years ago. Now, besides appearing in television spots, he promotes road safety in schools.

"I show them that, because of a



Some of the 75 youngsters involved in the Time to Live highway safety campaign.

(T. Kinkadee)

few simple mistakes by me and the driver, I ended up in a wheelchair," he says. He didn't bother to go to the crosswalk on a busy street, he admits, but the driver who hit him had run a red light.

Eli Aventura, 13, of Tel Aviv, was in a hurry to get home and see a television program he liked. He saw a car coming, but thought he had time to cross the street.

"Life is more important than television or anything else," is the message Eli conveys to viewers. "I think the broadcasts help. I think if they show one kid, then people will realize that he represents many other kids and every

one of them is someone's child," Eli says. "Perhaps in the next generation, when the kids who see these messages become adults, they will be better drivers," says Gili.

When motherhood was not just a matter of love

BOOKS

POLLY RAYNER

THE MYTHS OF MOTHERHOOD, Houghton Mifflin Company. \$24.95. 381 pp.

A glance at history would dispel any notion that there is one definition for a good mother.

Shari L. Thurer, author of the recently published *The Myths of Motherhood*, believes the good mother is reinvented periodically. "Each age defines her anew, in its own terms, its own ideals, requirements, with its own mythology."

In her book, Thurer points out that myths about motherhood have been changing since before the Middle Ages. "One moment they are idealized as images of the Holy Mother, the next moment they are denied access to sainthood precisely because they gave birth," she notes.

The Myths of Motherhood traces the religious, historical, cultural and psychological influences that have shaped our attitude toward motherhood. The author chronicles the ever-changing lives and roles of mothers from the Stone Age to Renaissance Europe to the present.

Thurer — a mother, psychologist and feminist — shatters the assumption that every mistake a mother makes can have adverse psychological effects on her children. She believes that children are not fragile and most mothers "ordinary," and cites common sense as the most important component for successful mothering.

In a telephone interview, Thurer pointed out that such practices as wet nursing, swaddling and sending youngsters away for long, exploitative apprenticeships, sometimes when they were as young as five or six years old, ever existed.

Child abandonment was widespread among the ancient Greeks and in the Middle Ages. Infanticide was common until the 19th century.

"It cannot be assumed that mothers throughout history loved their children unconditionally," said Thurer. "In the Middle Ages, the mother-child bond was almost nonexistent."

During the Renaissance, according to Thurer, abandoning children was so common that orphanages sprang up all over Italy. And, during the Industrial Revolution, children were used for cheap labor.

"In medieval times, children competed with their parents for food," said Thurer, who lives with her husband and daughter in Boston. "In the 19th century, about 30 percent or more women died in the course of their childbearing years from horrendous things like infections, and there were no cesareans then."

In Europe, when the economy was bad, many children were placed in foundling homes in large cities. In the 15th century, abandonment of children mushroomed. All major cities had such hospices. The rich deposited their bastard children. Poor families deposited both legitimate and illegitimate children. Wet nurses handed in their own children. A terrible mortality rate existed in these foundling homes probably because of poor sanitary conditions and spread of infection.

Besides lack of food, another reason for abandonment was illegitimacy.

"Illegitimate children once were accepted as part of the family, then extremely stigmatized. Today, with many parents unmarried, the taboo is fading again," said Thurer, an assistant professor of rehabilitation counseling at Boston University.

Didn't mothers in the past love their children?

Thurer said it may seem mind-boggling to modern parents, but children were not always deemed precious by their mothers and fathers, especially when they competed with them for food or were illegitimate. Well into the 19th



Thurer: Children are not fragile, and not every mistake a mother makes turns her child into an ax murderer. (Lisa Fleckow)

century, many children arrived as "surprises," because there was little access to reliable birth control. They were likely to cause their mother's death in delivery, and often the child died before five years of age.

Because of this, parents avoided attachment to their offspring in order to buffer against a feeling of loss, should they die or have to be killed. Infanticide seems to have been a part of Western European life until the late 19th century when women finally began to gain control over their reproductive capacity.

What about maternal instinct? Said Thurer, "Obviously, the fact that we are here implies a species-wide tendency to reproduce and nurture. In ordinary, decent circumstances, a baby's smile probably always tugged at its parents' heartstrings. But a mother's love, or father's love, is not a cosmic yearning demanding fulfillment." Today, in defining motherly

love, Thurer noted, child-care experts such as Drs. Benjamin Spock and T. Berry Brazelton offer informed opinion, not incontrovertible facts.

"Though baby gurus are well-meaning and seemingly reassuring, they inadvertently raise their mothers' sense of inadequacy."

This is not only because of the sheer impossibility of completing assigned tasks, which tend to be highly ambiguous and frequently unsympathetic to mothers' needs, but also because modern experts insistently remind mothers, either directly or indirectly, of their great responsibility.

"This message is that mom has the ominous power to shatter her child's future mental health. One false move, they seem to imply, and your child will turn into an ax murderer."

Any pure urges that humans may have started with are rapidly overlaid by the effects of social learning, Thurer said. So, while parental instinct of sorts seems to have a tendency to exist in both men and women, it is highly vulnerable to environmental manipulation. The desire to forgo parenthood is not unnatural.

Thurer, who has a private practice and has published articles in professional journals, said modern women are being pulled in two directions.

Parental performance anxiety reigns. "It fills my psychotherapy consulting room. Feminism tells women to maximize their potential, but popular mother culture deems mothers selfish for doing so."

"The current standings for good mothering are so formidable, self-denying, elusive, changeable and contradictory, that they are utterly unattainable. When things go wrong, mom gets blamed." (The Allentown Morning Call)

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Imam to take on Louis Farrakhan

JUDY PASTERNAK
CALUMET CITY, Illinois

IN the cluttered basement office of the Imam W. Deen Mohammed, on a wall behind his desk, hangs an illustrated poster depicting the history of Black Muslims in America.

Among the portraits are his own, his friend Malcolm X, and his father — the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, the builder of the Nation of Islam from 1934 until his death in 1975.

Conspicuously absent is the face of Louis Farrakhan.

Both Farrakhan and W. Deen Mohammed served as top advisers in Elijah Muhammad's Nation. Both claim to be carrying out Muhammad's wishes — Farrakhan through his Nation of Islam and Mohammed through his Ministry of W. Deen Mohammed. Both touch hundreds of thousands of lives as teachers and spiritual leaders. They are nearly the same age — Farrakhan, 61, and Mohammed, 60 — and through relatives who have married they share family ties.

But the two men have chosen strikingly different paths since they formally severed ties 17 years ago. They espouse philosophies that contrast as sharply as Farrakhan's commanding demeanor and Mohammed's thoughtful presence.

While Farrakhan's scolding racial rhetoric has propelled him into the center of controversy and onto front pages, Mohammed has labored more quietly to bring African Americans to Orthodox Sunni Islam. He has emphasized ties to world Islam rather than social change in the United States, and is seen internationally as an important leader in the faith. He also works to improve relations between Islam and other religions in the U.S. Fittingly, his initial stands for both his birth name, Wallace, and his Arabic name, Warith. He does not choose between them.

Now, a challenge is brewing. Mohammed expects to move next year to Newark, N.J., a Muslim center with a large African American population that is "ready-made for conversion," as C. Eric Lincoln, who has written extensively on black Muslims, observes.

Mohammed will be closer, too, to the great media crucible of New York City, where reputations are forged and tarnished.

Even sooner, on August 13, Mohammed plans to journey to the Harlem mosque where Malcolm X and, later, Farrakhan preached as his father's followers. On handbills advertising Mohammed's "special address," he assumes his father's mantle: "The son of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is coming...."

Under a tent on an adjoining lot, Mohammed says, he will call upon Louis Farrakhan to change. "I believe that he is a person who's in conflict with himself, in serious conflict with himself," Mohammed says. "I believe he's not living the Farrakhan he wants to live." He will urge Farrakhan, he says, to "say nothing in the name of Islam that would be damaging to the name of Islam." And that means, he says, that it is time to put aside separatist sentiments and to accept all people, no matter what their skin color.

For, while he praises Farrakhan's Nation of Islam for the strong attractions of "the neatness, the discipline, the love of family, the loyalty to husband and wife, the better showing of business," he condemns as "trouble" the minister's bitter talk about whites in general and Jews in particular.

Most of Farrakhan's disciples, he says, "are good people. I want to save them from something that I see as a time bomb."

Farrakhan has nothing to say at this time. He did not return telephone calls and faxes seeking a response to Mohammed's remarks.

Other Muslim leaders are leery of criticizing Farrakhan publicly, but they support Mohammed's plans. "This is a good idea," says Muzammil Siddiqi, director of the Islamic Society of Orange County, Calif. "Of course, everyone feels that way."

The timing is crucial for Mohammed. In the past, he has appeared to be the most mainstream of the two — Mohammed was the first Muslim to offer morning prayers before the US Senate and was the Muslim representative at Bill Clinton's Inaugural Interfaith Prayer Service. But Farrakhan is becoming accepted in the United States as a major player and was given forums this year by such established organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Congressional Black Caucus.

And while Mohammed has represented American Muslims in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco, Farrakhan's message is gaining a hold in Africa and the Caribbean. His Nation of Islam plans a convention in Ghana this year.

"Wallace either has to be confrontational or he has to be eclipsed," Lincoln says. "And he knows that."

But confrontation does not appear to be his strong suit. Mohammed is short, bearded and graying, with an unassuming manner.

"He has all the charisma of an accountant," says Steven Barboza, a New York journalist who is a practicing Muslim.

But Mohammed has now secured his own base, Lincoln notes.

He may have as many as or more supporters than Farrakhan, Lincoln says, while emphasizing there is no way to accurately determine how many people look to either of them.

Although Mohammed willingly concedes that he is no match for Farrakhan as an orator, his lectures and tapes are popular enough to afford him a pleasant life in a southern suburb of Chicago near his office.

He will have no trouble finding differences with Farrakhan to point to.

It would be hard to imagine Farrakhan publishing a brochure like Mohammed's introduction to his ministry, which features testimonials from whites — including a Washington, DC, rabbi, and Sens. Paul Simon and Orrin G. Hatch, — as well as from Muhammad Ali and television host Tony Brown. And it would be hard to imagine Farrakhan discoursing at length on the positive side of race relations in the United States, as Mohammed did last week.

"We have made so much progress," he said, "that I'm sorry that we're not living in the days of the Prophets so it will go down in a piece of Scripture."

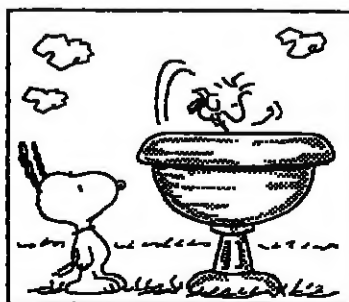
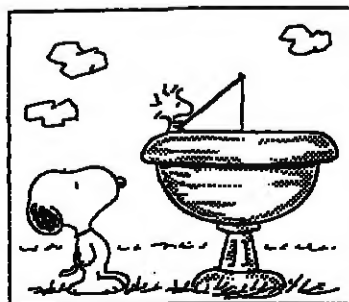
African Americans "should love America," he added. "We should love America passionately now that America has changed so drastically within a relatively short period of time."

Unlike in Farrakhan's movement, Mohammed says white people are welcome in his followers' mosques — although whites, he noted, smiling wryly, "are not knocking on our doors."

(Los Angeles Times)

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BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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Libi's Warm Corner
LIBI - The Fund for
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More Contributors to the Libi Fund

Members of the Public Association for the Libi Fund met this week at the Defense Ministry, to hear a report on the Libi balance sheet for 1993. Aluf (Res.) Danny Matt, the Libi Fund Chairman, stated that in 1993, the Libi Fund transferred some NIS 10 m. to the Education Corps, to finance basic education courses and trade training for thousands of soldiers with inadequate education, Hebrew language training for new immigrant soldiers, and educational courses for NCOs and officers. Another NIS 4 m. was allocated for the purchase of modern medical equipment, the setting up of medical installations, and for various projects for number corps.

In addition, there has been a continuous increase in the number of donors to Libi, an increase of 40% in the years 1989-1993.



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1994

Trade deficit falls by a third

Exports increase 3.6%, imports plummet 8.5% in July

THE trade deficit fell by a third last month to \$410 million, as exports rose 3.6 percent and imports dropped 8.5%, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Exports rose to \$1.34 billion from \$1.29b. in June, while imports fell to \$1.75b. from \$1.91b.

According to the bureau, the drop in imports reflected a sharp decrease in fuel imports last month.

During the first seven months of the year, the trade gap shot up 37% to \$4.67b. compared with the same period last year.

Exports were 7.75% higher and imports increased 16.3%.

Seasonally adjusted figures for the

past three months show that exports – excluding diamonds, ships and planes – rose between 4% and 5% compared with the previous three months.

During that period imports were flat and the trade gap fell 6%.

Industrial exports, excluding diamonds, rose between 3% and 4%. Textile and clothing exports shot up 19%, and rubber and plastic exports jumped 18%. Chemical, quarrying and mining exports rose a more moderate 5% to 6%.

By contrast, machine and electronics exports, which make up nearly

half of all industrial exports, fell 1%.

Diamond exports were flat, averaging \$284 million a month from May to June. Agricultural exports went up 6% to \$528m. from \$497m. in the last harvesting season.

Production input imports were unchanged. There were marked increases of 17% in imports of non-ferrous metals and of 16% in cloth and thread imports.

Chemical, rubber and plastic, raw material for paper production, iron and steel imports rose a more moderate 2% to 5%. By contrast, imports of

components for the machinery and electronics industry were flat.

Investment goods imports, such as machinery, equipment and vehicles, shrank 8%, after jumping 24% in the first quarter of the year.

Machinery and equipment imports fell between 8% and 9%, while transportation equipment dropped between 5% and 6%.

Consumer imports averaged \$246m. a month from May to July, a 2% decrease compared with the first third of the year.

Car and non-durable goods imports fell between 4% to 5%, while electric appliances, furniture and home equipment imports remained unchanged.

Ministry begins issuing licenses to import apples

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Agriculture Ministry has begun distributing licenses for the import of apples.

The first stage of the program will allow the immediate import of 1,000 tons of apples from Europe until September 30.

Although poor conditions this past winter created shortages of all types of fruit, imports will be limited to apples and pears.

The ministry said the imports of other fruits will not be allowed due to fears that they will bring pests and disease into the country.

Marketing firms who brought in

more than 500 tons of fruit during the past year will handle the imports.

Touva will be allowed 500 tons and Supersol and Co-op 100 tons each.

This division between the three largest participants was calculated by the ministry according to their relative market share.

The remaining 300 tons are to be divided – in amounts no smaller than 20 tons – by lottery among those large distributors who have applied to the ministry.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri said he hoped "imports would contribute to a deflation of the price of apples."

He insisted that the new policy – whereby imports would be allowed in cases of shortages – "would cause marketers and farmers to lower their prices."

The ministry is also working to provide reparations for those farmers whose incomes were hurt as a result of the warm winter weather, which sharply reduced the amount of crops.

Some 4,000 farmers have filed for aid, totaling some NIS 70 million.

Start battle against inflation with Egged

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

GEORGE Orwell could easily have been referring to Egged when he wrote that "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others." Over the past two years, a cut in subsidies has resulted in a 45 percent rise in bus fares, compared with an inflation rate of 17%. Transport Minister Yisrael Kesser this week asked the cabinet to approve a NIS 140 million increase in the subsidy to NIS 773m. to ensure that bus fares rise only at the rate of inflation. The cabinet will decide on the issue today.

Public transport is subsidized in many countries, although there is an increasing tendency to privatize such services. But in few countries are bus drivers as well paid as they are here.

According to State Budget Director David Brodet, Egged employee-drivers earn NIS 5,300, while the going rate for their unfortunate counterparts in the private sector is NIS 1,000 a month less. Egged co-operative members earn NIS 12,000. That's right, twelve thousand shekels a month. And they have the cheek to ask for increased subsidies from the taxpayer to boot.

Bus drivers may have responsible and sometimes even dangerous jobs, but so do doctors and policemen and they don't make anything like NIS 12,000 a month.

Meanwhile, private bus companies seem to be able to charge less. Egged appears to be inefficient, overmanned, overpaid and overpriced.

For a start, major inter-city routes and big city services should be privatized and Egged exposed to the chill wind of competition. Subsidies would only come at the expense of a significant cut in transport services.

Unfortunately, though, the transport minister seems to think he is still a union boss and not a cabinet member representing the interests of the whole nation. And, unfortunately, there is no Thatcher-like reformer willing to take on powerful unions and monopolies.

Of the 14%-15% inflation we are looking at this year, transport will contribute a useful chunk. If the government is serious about tackling inflation, this would be a good place to start.

Knesset Finance Committee okays DM 6m. in loan guarantees for Israel Shipyards

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday conditionally approved DM 6 million (NIS 11.6 million) in loan guarantees for Israel Shipyards, on the condition that the guarantees do not give the state-owned company an unfair advantage over its competitors.

The guarantees will enable the firm to obtain operating capital to build three cranes for the German company Kocks, as part of a project the latter is doing for the Israel Ports Authority.

Israel Shipyards' part of the project is worth some DM 9.5m. (NIS 18.3m.), and is expected to give it a profit of some \$0.9m.

The company first tried to obtain a loan from Bank Discount, but was turned down because of Discount's worries about the company's future.

After years of financial troubles – the firm has been in receivership since 1986 and is still losing money – it is not clear how much longer the

government will keep the company alive, the bank argued.

Without government guarantees, therefore, the firm would have to back out of its contract with Kocks.

Most of the committee members decided this was a good reason for giving the guarantees, as long as they do not give the company an unfair advantage over competitors, such as the Kadimay firm.

This issue will be investigated by the committee before it gives its final approval.

The only "no" vote was from Ariel Weinstein (Likud), who said there was no way the guarantees could not be discriminatory. A private company in a similar situation – of being unable to raise the money to complete a project by itself – would be forced to give up the project, he said.

The rapid approval was also indi-

rectly criticized by committee economic adviser Smadar Elhanani, who pointed out that the government has several times given money to Israel Shipyards since it entered receivership, in exchange for promises of improvement in its economic state which haven't materialized.

This funding included NIS 8.6m. for a recovery plan in 1987, \$5m. of government guarantees in 1990, a NIS 5.6m. bridge loan in 1991 and another \$5m. in guarantees in 1992. However, the company still showed an operating loss of NIS 4m. in the first quarter of this year, due, according to the Treasury, to its failure to obtain the contract to build tugboats for the Hadera Port.

A company which cannot even obtain a commercial loan to finish a project already in hand, Elhanani said, is in sufficiently bad shape that the committee should at least demand some firm answers before approving more funding.

Lanet's second quarter net profits rise 71%

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

LANNET has posted a 71 percent rise in second quarter net profits to \$1.2 million from \$724,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to \$16.5m. from \$12m., while earnings per share went up to \$0.12 from \$0.07.

CEO Benny Hanigal said it was the fourth consecutive quarter of record

sales for Lanet. Of note was the new LANswitch product, which "generated 14% of the second quarter's revenues," according to Hanigal.

He added that North American sales had rebounded and accounted for 27% of total revenues.

During the second quarter, a Lanet subsidiary completed a private venture capital placement for \$1.8m. Lanet realized a \$1.1m. capital gain as a result.

Industrial Buildings Corporation has announced a drop in second quarter net profits to NIS 4m. from NIS 9.7m. during the same period last year.

Revenues fell to NIS 22.9m. from NIS 24m., while earnings per share dropped to NIS 0.014 from NIS 0.033.

The company also registered a loss of NIS 8.2m. in the value of its portfolio.

Agan Chemical Manufacturers reported a rise in net profits to NIS 10.7m. from NIS 7.5m. during the same period last year.

Revenues jumped to NIS 103.9m. from NIS 88.3m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.71 from NIS 0.50.

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The park has an excellent position in the city's road network. There is easy access to the center of town. Upon the completion of Highway No. 4, the park will be connected directly to the Tel Aviv highway. Adjoining the park is the thriving Malha shopping center, and a new exclusive residential area. Most of the park's area will be leased by high-tech industries and approved technological enterprises. The remainder will be occupied by service and auxiliary facilities.

The total built area is approximately 70,000 sq.m., and an additional 30,000 sq.m. has been set aside for parking and other services. Building No. 1 will be ready in a few months.

The total projected area of the first buildings is 16,000 sq.m.

Occupation will begin in October 1994. Work has already commenced on Building No. 5.

In planning the park, all efforts were made to provide each unit with optimum conditions, while permitting great flexibility in the internal planning of each building.

The goal was to provide a creative work environment for scientists, engineers, technicians and managers. Planning was carried out with great detail and care. The results are already evident. The park is a combined project of ISRAS Group Investment Company Ltd., one of Israel's oldest public companies, and the Jerusalem Development Authority, a joint venture of the government and Jerusalem Municipality.

Jerusalem is in an "Alef" scientific and technological industries development area. Those who invest in an approved plant will benefit from an attractive, comprehensive incentives package.

For further details and to arrange a tour of the site, you are invited to call the Marketing Manager, Mr. Moshe Pollack, Tel. 02-794513, Fax. 02-794514.



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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Approval delayed for Peled's Electric Corp. appointment: The approval of the appointment of Rafi Peled as managing director of the Israel Electric Corporation was delayed by the Civil Service Commission's appointment panel, headed by retired judge Mordechai Ben-Dror, *Telegraph* reported last night.

The panel asked the government for clarifications on the recently approved "Lorenz" amendment to the Public Service Appointments Law, which allows the appointment of those who lack the academic qualifications required for a particular managerial post if they have managerial work experience. Peled, who has no academic business training, was previously police inspector-general.

Nisko wins NIS 15 million Electric Corp. tender: Nisko has won a NIS 15 million Israel Electric Corporation tender for electronic meters with both commercial and industrial applications. Some 18,000 meters will be supplied over the next three years.

Rules discussed for private sector consultants in public service: The cabinet's Government Administration Committee, headed by Economics Minister Shimon Shetret, met this week to establish guidelines for hiring private sector consultants in the public service. The committee agreed to encourage the policy of hiring consultants from the private sector, while finding a reasonable solution to the problem of conflicts of interest.

Business sector's payment record improves slightly: The business sector's payment record slightly recovered in July, as 25.9 percent of all companies paid their suppliers late compared with 27.8% in June, Dun and Bradstreet reported yesterday. The sector with the worst payment record was contracting with 33.3%, while textile had the best record at 20.1%.

International Technologies to supply Turkish Defense Ministry: International Technologies, which specializes in lasers, will provide \$1.01 million in equipment to the Turkish Defense Ministry. The company has received an initial payment of \$300,000.

Dead Seas Works in talks with Jordanian firm: Dead Sea Works and Jordan's Arab Potash Company are negotiating cooperative business ventures. In addition to transfer and sale of know-how, Dead Sea Works spokesman Zvi Friedman said the main topics of interest from the Jordanian side are evaporation pool technology, transport systems and use of the Ashdod port.

WORLD BRIEFS

Coffee prices tumble on London: Coffee prices, recently catapulted to 8-1/2-year highs after two severe frosts in Brazil, tumbled yesterday as speculators gambling on warmer weather decided to take profits. But traders said the underlying market tone remained very firm because manufacturers were waiting to buy up coffee as prices drifted lower.

On the London futures market, coffee for November delivery dropped \$194 to \$3,195 per tonne after sliding \$160 on Monday and mirroring sharp overnight losses in New York. It is now 22 percent below a recent 8-1/2-year high of \$4,085, reached in early July after the second heavy frost this summer ravaged coffee plantations in Brazil, the world's biggest producer. *Reuters*

Cie de Suez sells bulk of Groupe Victoire: Cie de Suez's sale of the bulk of Groupe Victoire to Britain's Commercial Union gives the French financial and holding group a chance to slim and invest cash to refocus its business, financial analysts say. The long-awaited sale – completing Suez's plan to spin off most of a company it fought hard to take over in 1989 – was announced yesterday morning.

Suez stuck to the price tag of FR 12.5 billion (\$2.31 billion) which it had put on the deal when it was first announced in June. After that announcement it had said the sum could be FR 200m. to FR 300m. (\$37m. to \$55m.). less. Chairman Gerard Worms said that an end-June valuation of Victoire's investment portfolio would probably take the final sale price below the initial target. *Reuters*

Barclays reports soaring profits: British commercial bank Barclays reported soaring profits for the half year yesterday and the bank's chairman Andrew Buxton said he saw scope for further gains.

Barclays earlier announced pretax profits of £1.04 billion compared with £335m. last time – well above even the most optimistic market forecast of £750m. Buxton said he was relaxed about operating profit before provisions, which slipped slightly to £1.24b. from £1.34b. *Reuters*

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Petaf (foreign currency deposit rates) (S.B.S.94)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.125	4.500	5.000
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.000	4.375	5.125
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.000	4.000	4.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.250	3.375	3.500
Yen (10 million yen)	0.650	0.750	1.000

(rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (S.B.S.94)			
Currency	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.2580	3.2580	3.2580
German mark	3.0288	3.0715	3.11
Pound sterling	1.9038	1.9383	1.96
French franc	4.8547	4.7222	4.85
Japanese yen (100)	0.2575	0.2583	0.257
Dutch guilder	2.5670	2.5300	2.53
Swiss franc	1.7006	1.7246	1.67
Swedish krona	2.2254	2.2873	2.22
Norwegian krona	0.3891	0.3945	0.38
Portuguese escudo	0.4846	0.4918	0.48
Spanish peseta	0.3817	0.3888	0.38
Canadian dollar	2.1983	2.2228	2.17
Australian dollar	2.2510	2.2837	2.18
S. African rand	0.5388	0.5528	0.51
Belgian franc (10)	0.2279	0.2410	0.23
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7158	2.7388	2.69
Italian lire (1000)	1.5037	1.5335	1.48
Jordanian dinar	—	—	0.87
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.87
Irish punt	3.4682	3.5085	3.48
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8007	4.8252	4.77
—	2.2238	2.2500	2.24

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM

Ramon cancels Gatt's suspension – but new Histadrut crisis looms

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut coalition crisis was resolved yesterday after Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon canceled the suspension of administration head Meir Gatt.

However, another crisis is likely to erupt over Gatt's refusal to allow employment on personal contracts, which is forbidden by the Histadrut's constitution. Ramon has already brought in advisers and workers on personal contracts.

At a meeting yesterday between Ramon and the Labor Party's Histadrut faction leaders, the coalition crisis over Gatt's suspension was solved. The crisis was triggered by Ramon's retroactive annulment of the pension settlement for Giora Einy, the legal department head who retired in May after Ramon won the Histadrut elections. Gatt, who found out that the pension agreement he had approved had been annulled behind his back, canceled the annulment and accused Ramon of conspiracy with Gatt's subordinates in the administration

section. After yesterday's meeting, two versions of the settlement of the crisis were issued. Ramon's spokeswoman said Gatt's authorities were cut down, following the decision that from now on, Ramon's approval would be required for every decision made by the administration committee, which is in charge of appointments, dismissals and retirement.

In addition, Ramon canceled Gatt's suspension of Yitzhak Hayek, the official who had acted behind Gatt's back to annul Giora Einy's pension agreement, at Ramon's orders.

According to Gatt, the administrative decisions had always required the secretary-general's approval and "obviously any decision about cutting down sections, which involves reforms concerning all of the Histadrut would need Ramon's okay." Concerning Hayek, Gatt confirmed that his suspension was canceled, but said he would look for someone to replace Hayek.

Ramon said after the meeting that he intends to make a test case out of Einy's pension agreement which, according to his legal advisers, could be reversed because it was not legally sound.

He also said he would release for publication the details of the pension settlements of more than 60 other retired Histadrut officials and ask them to renounce many of their benefits.

Ramon confirmed his intention to fire up to one third of the workers in the Histadrut's pension funds, in addition to firing hundreds of temporary workers in Histadrut headquarters and labor councils, and hundreds more in the tax collection department. "The Histadrut does not have the billion shekels needed to pay their wages. We said there are too many workers and that we would cut it down before we entered office and that's what we're doing," he said.

Police again summon Nimrodi for questioning

RAINE MARCUS

OFFER Nimrodi, *Ma'ariv* publisher and owner of the Hachsharat Hayishuv insurance company, was questioned by police yesterday for the second time in connection with illegal wiretapping.

His security officer, former GSS officer David Ronen, was questioned for the third time.

Nimrodi was first questioned under caution last Thursday, following a complaint to police that he had tried, using lawyer Motti Catz as an intermediary, to persuade private investigator David Spector to produce information that *Yediot Aharanot* managers were carrying out illegal wiretapping. Catz, defense lawyer of accused wiretapper Rafi Friedan, was also questioned under caution last Thursday. Nimrodi then said the complaint was false.

Private investigator Friedan, charged together with his business partner Ya'acov Tsur with tapping phones and cellular phones of hundreds of media employees, politicians and businessmen, has refused to tell police who commissioned the wide-scale bugging.

Yesterday sources said Nimrodi was questioned for several hours about his possible involvement in wiretapping, and with Friedan and Tsur. Although police sources said they suspect Nimrodi may have played a part in the offenses, they have no concrete evidence.

Sources said the investigation regarding Nimrodi has now finished and he will not be summoned again. He was unavailable for comment last night.

Since the arrest of Friedan and Tsur several months ago, police

investigating the case have arrested several private investigators and businessmen in the hope that someone may shed light on the identity of who commissioned the bugs.

Ronen was originally questioned last Thursday as he stepped off a plane at Ben-Gurion Airport. He was later released but then questioned again the following day. Yesterday he was also summoned to the national crimes squad headquarters. Police suspect he may have been the intermediary between Nimrodi and the Agam company, which belongs to Friedan and Tsur. He was present at several meetings, held secretly in hotel rooms, between Catz and Nimrodi.

Police are expected to summon senior *Yediot* employees for questioning later this week.

MKs criticize plan for Trans-Israel Highway expropriations

EVELYN GORDON

THE government bill dealing with expropriations for the Trans-Israel Highway is worse than existing expropriation law, several members of the Knesset Finance Committee agreed yesterday.

Eli Goldschmidt (Labor) and Ariel Weinstein (Likud) both said the new law would significantly worsen the position of the person whose land is expropriated. In contrast, Avraham Poraz (Meretz) argued that the bill creates expectations for exaggerated compensation, while doing little to achieve the government's goal of speeding up the process. By creating a special law for this set of expropriations, he said, the government gives the land owners the false belief that they are more important, and therefore worthy of higher compensation than others whose land is taken.

The bill tries to reduce the degree to which expropriations result in lengthy court battles over the size of compensation, by requiring the owner to appeal to the court if he objects to what he is offered, rather than requiring the state to get court approval for each deal.

Goldschmidt and Weinstein both objected to this attempt to limit the courts' involvement, saying the court is one of the main tools for ensuring that the owner

gets fair compensation.

Since the compensation committee established by the law will not be required to publish or explain its decisions, Weinstein added, it will be difficult for an owner to challenge them in court. The fact that the billsets no criteria for assessing the value of the land also opens the door for widely varying assessments, he said.

Goldschmidt also objected to the bill's provision for compensation on the basis of the land's current value. Under current law, he said, compensation is based on what a voluntary buyer and seller would probably agree on – which means the future value of the land is also a factor.

Meanwhile, the committee yesterday received an economic opinion by independent economist Eliahu Boruchov arguing that the entire highway is a bad idea.

Even with the \$1.2 billion highway, Israel's roads will not be able to handle the amount of traffic projected by the year 2010, he said, so it would be better for the government to accept the inevitable, and concentrate on public transportation.

While some roads must be built, it would make more sense to link northern towns with Haifa and southern towns with Beersheba than to link towns throughout the country with Tel Aviv, he said.

Golan settlers to step up campaign against withdrawal

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Heights Settlers Committee has decided to intensify its campaign to press for the retention of Israeli sovereignty over the region, despite the apparent lack of progress in the Israeli-Syria peace process.

The decision was announced yesterday as members of the Likud Knesset faction's special Golan, Judea and Samaria Committee, led by MK Uzi Landau, toured the Golan in a show of solidarity with the residents and their "no withdrawal" campaign.

"We want to prevent the government from trying to steal the Golan under cover of the euphoric mood that is sweeping everybody over Jordan. The focus of attention is no longer on the Golan," said Landau.

He called on the public not to be lulled or misled by "talk of peace, breakthroughs and historic processes."

Uri Heitner, spokesman for the Golan Settlers Committee, said it was decided at a Monday meeting to intensify the campaign for "peace with the Golan." He said this would take the form of a major publicity drive, including the screening of information broadcasts at nearly 120 cinemas throughout the country during advertisement breaks.



Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) yesterday tells new recruits at the 'Bakum' induction center at Tel Hashomer that military service for men will probably not be shortened for another decade. "I'm hopeful we'll reach a situation in which the army will be occupied less with fighting wars and more with preventing wars," Rabin said. Lt.-Gen. (res.) Rabin chatted with conscripts as they were processed and was issued his own new military ID card. Told by the center's commander that many inductees insist on joining combat units, Rabin said this is a tribute to the new generation.

(Text: Alon Pinkas; photo: Reuters)

'Hizbullah stopped firing Katyushas fearing IDF reprisals'

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

HIZBULLAH stopped firing Katyusha rockets into the North earlier in the week fearing that Israel may expand its activities in south Lebanon, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak said yesterday.

Speaking in Bahad-12, the central IDF basic training base for women, Barak said that in the security zone in south Lebanon, "War has been raging for months."

Hizbullah, however, has vowed to step up attacks in the security zone, dismissing an Israeli claim that Syria has promised to rein in the group.

A statement described a comment by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that violence in south Lebanon was over as "mere allegations."

Peres gave Syria credit for curbing Hizbullah guerrillas.

"We are highly confident of the Syrian position and that of Presi-

dent Hafez Assad particularly on the nature of the struggle with Israel," said Hizbullah's statement.

It was published yesterday by Beirut's leading newspapers, the independent *An-Nahar* and the leftist *As-Safir*.

"The Syrians have said repeatedly that resistance is a natural right of our people, who will continue to exercise it as long as our land is occupied," the statement added.

"The coming days will show resistance operations continuing with the same, if not higher, momentum," the statement concluded.

As-Safir also quoted Hizbullah's parliament member Mohammed Raad as saying no one had asked the party to halt its military operations.

"Neither Syria nor anyone else

has contacted the party on this matter," he was quoted as saying.

Raad was referring to Peres's statement about US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's airplane Monday as it carried them to Jerusalem from Jordan's Red Sea port of Akaba.

Peres said Syria had arranged for a halt in Hizbullah attacks on Israel and on the security zone.

"They are trying to create the conditions that are necessary to continue the negotiations," Peres said.

Syria is trying to please the United States, he said.

"We think the Syrians are in a position to stop the shooting," he said, "and our feeling today is it is over, the story is over," Peres said.

On the events happening on the Jordanian-Israeli track, Barak

said that the warm atmosphere in Akaba, Washington and the Dead Sea "should not confuse us because a lengthy and difficult negotiating period is still ahead of us."

Touring the base, populated by 2,500 new conscripts, Barak spoke at length on the issue of sexual harassment, telling the women soldiers that no commander, regardless of his rank, has any right over their privacy.

"As a phenomenon, sexual harassment in the IDF is decreasing, thanks to both army treatment of cases and growing awareness of new women soldiers to their rights," Barak said.

On the issue of the increasing number of new conscripts, and periodic commentaries claiming that the army could do with less, Barak said that there is a constant growth, and that more women will be directed to police and educational roles.

Capital to install alarm system at all city pre-schools

EVELYN GORDON

THE Jerusalem Municipality will install alarm systems that summon security forces at the touch of a button in nursery schools run by Na'amat, and will negotiate with other organizations such as WIZO about doing the same, the city told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

The systems, which are already present in municipality-run pre-schools, will be installed by the end of October at the latest, the city said.

The announcement was in response to a petition by Yoav Haas, whose child learns in a Na'amat preschool. Haas argued that since the city is responsible for the security of all its inhabitants, it has no right to install the alarm buttons only in municipality-run schools while ignoring those run by private organizations.

In the wake of the petition, the city reached an agreement with Na'amat and the Labor Ministry whereby Na'amat will split the cost of installation with the city, but the Labor Ministry will give Na'amat the funds to do so. Na'amat's share comes to some NIS 55,000.

According to the arrangement, Na'amat will transfer the money to the city by September 1, after which the city will issue a tender for the work. Final installation should be completed by the end of October, the city said.

The city also told the court that it will try to negotiate similar deals with other groups that run pre-schools in the city, such as Emunah and WIZO.

Namir: Day-care centers must stay open

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir yesterday came out strongly in support of the women's organizations running the country's day-care centers, saying she backs their demand that the Treasury solve their deficit problem. The centers must keep operating so the parents of some 45,000 pre-schoolers can go to work as usual when the school year begins September 1, Namir said.

The heads of the women's organizations – Na'amat, WIZO, Emuna, Nili, and Herut Women – are threatening to close the country's day-care centers unless the government covers a NIS 60 million accumulated operating deficit and updates its share of expenses.

The organizations say the government has not updated its calculations on the operation of the centers in 25 years. They say the government does not take into account changing social needs, such as the increasing number of women working outside the home, the rising wages of center workers, and security arrangements.

Since the Finance and Labor ministries have turned a deaf ear to the centers' plight, the women's organizations have decided they can no longer afford to subsidize the increased costs from their own budgets and must close them.

Meeting with Na'amat, WIZO, and Emuna leaders at her home yesterday, Namir asked Labor Ministry Director-General Avraham Ben-Shoshan to represent her at their meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat tomorrow and help solve the crisis.

However, Namir urged the organizations not to cease their subsidy of the centers all at once, but to gradually reduce it from 25% to 10%, while the Treasury would finance the remaining 15%.

Namir promised to support their demand the Defense Ministry pay its share of security costs, which she agreed should not be

MIA families offer shelter to Syrian officer who defected

BATHEVA TSUR

THE families of two soldiers missing in action since the 1982 Lebanon War have offered shelter to an officer from the Syrian army who defected.

The families of MIA's Zecharia Baumei and Yossi Fink issued a statement yesterday saying they would like to offer political asylum and shelter in their homes to the Syrian defector.

"We feel that Abdel Khoudr Darweesh, or any defector who might come in his footsteps, would

possibly shed light on the MIAs," Yonah Baumei, the father of Zecharia, said yesterday. "He was a Syrian army officer; he actually worked with the Hizbullah."

Baumei said there had been no official reaction to the suggestion.

The defector surrendered to the South Lebanese Army on Sunday waving a white flag, near the security zone in Lebanon. The SLA turned him over to Israeli soldiers.

Darweesh, 27, from Aleppo, told reporters in Lebanon he was a former member of the Syrian army and had walked into the zone to seek political asylum in Israel.

He was identified as having fought with the Amal Shi'ite militia before cooperating with the Hizbullah in the Iktim al-Tufah region in Lebanon.

The defection came as US Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Damascus saying he had made progress on peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Meanwhile, the Katz family has requested that the government look into the possibility of obtaining information from a Norwegian, Stig Bergelin, who spied for the communists and defected to Russia, but who in the past week was arrested in Stockholm after he decided to turn himself in.

According to media reports in Sweden, Bergelin, 57, spent the past two years in the Bekaa region of Lebanon, where he was in touch with radical elements. He was arrested in 1979 at Ben-Gurion Airport on suspicion of spying for the Soviet Union and against Israel in his capacity as a UN

NEWS IN BRIEF

Animal group sets up hotline

A national animal help-line started operating this week under the auspices of Noah, the Federation of Animal Welfare Groups in Israel. Callers bear a recorded message, in Hebrew only, listing the phone numbers of most of the country's animal shelters as well as groups specializing in wild animals and birds.

The line itself was donated by the Shiddurit telecommunications company, while popular TV presenter Dalik Wolowitz volunteered to read the numbers.

The drawback of the service is that the telephone numbers are read very fast. Be prepared with pen and paper before you dial: 03-5115415.

Man threatens to set children alight

A Holon man who poured gasoline over his four children and threatened to set them alight was remanded for four days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

The man, who is disabled, told police he was afraid that he would not be able to support his children if the municipality took over his snack bar.

Judge Gilad Neutal told the man, whose name was banned from publication, that he should have used "other, legitimate methods to protest."

Tzaban: 67% of CIS olim have bought homes

Almost 90,000 immigrant families from the CIS have taken advantage of special mortgages to buy homes, Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban said yesterday.

This constitutes 67% of the families with children who immigrated since 1989 and 65% of the young couples, Tzaban said. But he said he was concerned that families renting in the center of the country were not buying housing and that single people, particularly the elderly, were not able to afford homes.

Bezek employees get back-to-work orders

The Tel Aviv District Labor Court yesterday ordered Bezek workers in Tel Aviv and the Sharon region to halt sanctions immediately. On Monday, the staffers refused to answer 199 (Bezek service) and 166 (repair) lines in the region.

The workers began the sanctions to protest against management's plans to reduce manpower by 1,250 staffers before the end of this year.

The restraining orders were issued at the request of management, which argued the sanctions were harming the public and the company's reputation.

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